



Chancellor's tough stance on sterling

Gloomy Lamont rules out early interest rate cut

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont yesterday dashed hopes of an early cut in interest rates and gave a grim forecast of the short-term prospects for British industry. Unemployment would continue to rise over the coming months, but there would be no escape from the tough disciplines of the European exchange-rate mechanism. The Chancellor also dampened hopes of tax cuts, saying the government's tight fiscal policy would continue.

Mr Lamont's first Commons speech since his appointment came as a balance of trade figures showed that the recession was biting and as leading industrialists gave a warning that long-term damage to the economy was unavoidable. Figures to be published today will show that unemployment has risen for the eighth successive month.

Peter Brighton, director general of the Engineering Employers Federation, said that output and employment levels could be substantially lower next year, resulting in the loss of up to 60,000 jobs. The priority was to reduce inflation without putting all the burden on the manufac-



turing sector. "If manufacturing capacity is weakened as a consequence of the fight against inflation, there will be long term damage to the whole UK economy. Some such damage now seems unavoidable; the issue now is to minimise the damage."

Further evidence of the deepening recession came with the publication of balance of trade figures for the third quarter showing a sharp cut in Britain's foreign deficit. Increased exports suggest that British industry is looking for overseas markets in the face of depressed demand at home.

In the Commons, the Chancellor rejected "siren voices" suggesting that the exchange rate was too high and declared the government's determination to defend sterling's place within the ERM. He denied that he might attempt a hidden devaluation by moving to a narrower band.

The Chancellor acknowledged that British business was about to enter a testing time and that there had been a marked slowdown in the economy. Although the Treasury and outside forecasters had been predicting a relatively short recession, there could be no guarantee of that, he said.

Mr Lamont's remarks seemed calculated to stabilise sterling within its ERM band and so avoid the need for an embarrassing devaluation or potentially disastrous rise in interest rates to shore up the pound.

His clearest intention was to dampen growing speculation of a pre-Christmas cut in interest rates. A lot of people

had not woken up to the fact that joining the ERM was a decisive change in the government's counter-inflation strategy and that the rules had changed, he said. "There is no question of a reduction of interest rates which is not fully justified by our position in the ERM. This will be the case however strong the pressure for lower interest rates based on other indicators."

Mr Lamont said that although the discipline of the ERM was tough, it meant that when interest rates were they would be securely based because of the increased certainty of lower inflation.

The headline rate of inflation had now almost certainly peaked. The Treasury's forecast that it would fall to 5.5 per cent by the fourth quarter of next year was by no means optimistic. "The majority of outside forecasters have forecast both lower inflation and higher growth than we have."

Mr Lamont admitted that there could be no guarantee of the predicted relatively short recession. He cited uncertainties over the Gulf and said much would depend on efforts to keep down labour costs. He said: "It is clear that the economy is now experiencing a marked slowdown. We will see unemployment rise further in the coming months. There always will be costs involved in reducing inflation. But the costs of continuing to live with inflation are far higher."

Mr Lamont spoke after John Smith, the shadow chancellor, called for interest rate cuts to bring relief to hard-pressed firms and home-owners. Mr Smith said that a year ago, John Major as Chancellor said that a recession was neither likely nor necessary. Now a serious recession was spreading and bringing in its wake business failures and rising unemployment.

Mr Lamont's tough line coincided with signs that the bid for the home-ownership bid may be ending. An ICM poll in *The Guardian* today shows that the Tory lead over Labour is down to two points compared with an average of 11 points in other polls taken immediately after Mrs Thatcher's departure.



Starry-eyed: Helen Sharman (above), a confectionery technologist, and Major Timothy Mace, of the Army Air Corps, are back in the race to become the first Briton in space (Nick Nuttall writes). June, the Anglo-Soviet mission to the Mir space station, was halted earlier this year after funding difficulties. John Glover, an executive with the Moscow Narodny Bank in

London, announcing the programme's relocation yesterday, said it followed confidential negotiations with NPO Energia, the Soviet space vehicle builder, and VVO Lissiansk, the builder's commercial arm and an announcement is expected in January as to which of the pair will fly. "The next mission into space is expected to carry a Briton," Mr Glover said.

Six fishermen feared dead as gales bring flood alerts

By KERRY GILL

SIX Scottish fishermen were feared drowned last night after their boat capsized in force 10 gales 50 miles east of Shetland. The winds also forced the evacuation of oil rigs and caused flood alerts as far south as the Thames estuary.

The fishing boat Premier was thought to have been swamped by an 80ft wave. Rescuers believe the same wave hit the Glomar Arctic III North Sea platform, sweeping away life rafts 80ft above sea level. The tragedy stunned the fishing communities of Hopton, Burghhead, and Lossiemouth and is the latest of a series of disasters to strike the fishing communities.

The Premier's hull was spotted surrounded by debris and with an empty life raft floating alongside by a coast-guard helicopter soon after the alert was raised at about 7.30 am. A distress signal was sent out from the vessel's emergency radio beacon. Ships and fishing boats joined the search co-ordinated by an RAF Nimrod in 60ft waves and winds gusting to 90mph.

Among those feared drowned are Ned Edwards, the skipper, and his two brothers, Billy and Neil. Neil Edwards joined the crew only at the last minute after taking over from another village fisherman. The Premier, built in 1974, left Peterhead on Sunday to fish off Shetland. Other crew members are Alexander Main, Billy Main (no relation) and John Ross, all of Burghhead. The Premier finally sank shortly after 1 pm. The search for the crewmen was called off as darkness fell last night.

Meanwhile, the east coast was bracing itself last night as

stom, force winds and high tides threatened sea defences and brought widespread flood alerts. The storm tide warning service said that the gales could coincide with rising tides in some areas. Hundreds of children in Norfolk were sent home early from school because of fears of flooding.

Schools in several towns along the Norfolk coast closed early and emergency evacuation centres were set up at the North Dunes and Lynn Grove High Schools in Great Yarmouth as a precaution in case people were forced to leave their homes. Staff at the schools also prepared supplies of food, hot drinks and blankets.

Two roads at near by Gorleston, below sea level, were also closed as flooding fears grew. Heavy seas pounded the Norfolk coast throughout the afternoon.

As the tides rose a hundred people were evacuated from the Bush estate in Eccles on the north Norfolk coast and were taken to a local village hall for the night. At Brundall, near Norwich, on the Norfolk Broads, parts of the village were under 18 in of water and 10 people had to be evacuated from their homes.

Police warned many more families in the Norfolk Broads to prepare for possible evacuation last night as they awaited the impact of a surge of water along rivers expected to hit villages many miles inland. Officers visited homes in Hoveton, Horning, Ludham, Hickling, Porter Heigham, while flood alerts were broadcast by local radio stations.

During the day flood sirens were sounded along the coast north of Yarmouth. Parts of nearby Reedham were also badly flooded and one resident, Violet Lucking, said that it is the worst flooding she had seen since 1953. On that occasion more than 200 people died when floods swept the east coast.

As storms lashed the coast, nearly 100,000 people were still without electricity supplies after last weekend's blizzards. The worst-hit area was the East Midlands, where some isolated communities have been told that it will be the end of the week before power is restored.

Meteorologists say that the rain and snow will continue at least for several days and, over the weekend, will combine with some of the lowest temperatures in years.

INSIDE

School waste under attack

Government plans to allow all schools to opt out of local authority control could lead to more waste resources which are already costing poll tax payers £140 million a year, the Audit Commission reports.

Primary schools in England and Wales have 900,000 empty desks. Page 7

Ershad held



Hussain Ershad, ousted as president of Bangladesh last week, was placed under house arrest in Dhaka. Page 13

Medical payouts

John Major's award of an extra £42 million to haemophiliacs with Aids has renewed demands for an overhaul of the system of medical compensation. Page 5

Royal rebuke

The Prince of Wales attacked water industry plans to incinerate sewage sludge, calling for a positive attitude to potentially useful waste. Page 7

Degree results

A further list of London university degrees is published today. Page 30

Levitt deficit

Levitt Group liquidators believe the company collapsed with a £30 million deficit of shareholders' funds. Page 27

Ford gloom

Ford Motor Company warned that this year's dividend may not be secure and forecast a final-quarter loss. Page 27

One-day wonder

Australian domination of England cricketers in the World Series Cup one-day competition lies in method and adaptability. Page 36

INDEX

Arts	22-23
Births, marriages, deaths	17
Business	27-31
Court & social	18
Crosswords	17-28
Leading articles	15
Letters	15
Obituaries	16
Science and Technology	18, 19
Sport	34-38
TV & radio	25
Weather	26

Delors is still not convinced by Major

From PETER GUILFORD IN STRASBOURG

JACQUES Delors, the president of the European Commission, expects John Major to match his new conciliatory style on the European Community with a commitment to greater political integration when EC leaders gather in Rome tomorrow.

Mr Delors welcomed the prime minister's "change of style", but warned that he was unconvinced. "There is a difference between style and substance, and to see whether there is a change in substance, we shall have to wait and see."

He predicted that government leaders would sign a meaningful declaration by the end of the formal summit. This would give them a solid framework on which to begin their intergovernmental conference on political union on Saturday.

Such a declaration on political union would be "a lot less precise in the limits it sets" than the October declaration on monetary union, which so upset the government, Mr Delors admitted.

But he hoped it would provide a backdrop from which the community could establish a common foreign and security policy, extend the EC's powers, streamline its decision-making and strengthen the democracy of its institutions. The stage is set, however, for a conflict with

Continued on page 26, col 2

High-flyer, page 2
Policewoman enquiry, page 2

Rome summit, page 10
Leading article, page 15

Shamir welcomes idea of a nuclear-free zone

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND ANDREW MCEWEN

YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, said yesterday that he welcomed "in principle" a Soviet proposal that a nuclear and chemical weapon-free zone, embracing both Iraq and Israel, be created in the Middle East once the situation in the Gulf is resolved.

The idea was floated by Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, in Houston on Tuesday night after two days of talks with James Baker, the American secretary of state. Although the obstacles to creating such a zone would be immense, Mr Baker also expressed some sympathy with the concept.

Meanwhile, Britain last night decided to withdraw the last two diplomats in Kuwait, after the safe evacuation of nearly all Britons who wished to leave. Michael Weston, the ambassador, and Larry Banks, who stayed on after every other Western nation, includ-

ing the United States, had withdrawn its staff, will return within a week. They volunteered to continue manning the embassy but Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, evidently felt the risk was not justified. The Foreign Office estimated that 50 Britons remained in Kuwait. It urged those who want to leave to do so now.

Harold Walker, the British ambassador to Baghdad, is flying to London today to brief government ministers on the situation in Iraq. It will be his first trip back since his return to Baghdad from leave in August, shortly after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

On a day of bewildering and complex diplomacy in Washington, President Bush was meeting Mr Shevardnadze at the White House late yesterday. He was expected to agree not only to send emergency medical supplies to the Soviet Union, but also tem-

porarily to waive long-standing trade restrictions, enabling Moscow to buy substantial quantities of badly-needed American grain on favourable credit terms to see it through the winter.

Ending the restrictions altogether is contingent on Moscow legalising free emigration, which it has not done. But

Continued on page 26, col 5

Soviet anger, page 9
Minister sacked, page 12
Letters, page 15

Trawler tragedy, page 3
Forecast, page 26

Local income tax study

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine yesterday promised to study proposals for a local income tax as part of the government's fundamental review of the community charge.

Officials at the environment department are also to produce the revenue implications of removing the funding of education, the police and fire services from local authorities to the central government.

Mr Heseltine disclosed his move in the Commons as the

Tory Reform Group said that the poll tax should be replaced by a local income tax. The Liberal Democrats have been the only main party to support such a tax.

Mr Heseltine said that ministers would have to have in front of them the implications for value-added tax and income tax levels if education, police and fire services were funded nationally.

Parliament, page 8

Frank cashes in on the power sale equity

By MARTIN WALLER



Mantle: getting monster share from the campaign

AT LAST the shocking facts can be revealed: the man who made the biggest killing in the electricity privatisation, and without even filing in an application form, was Frank N. Stein, or at least the 6ft 6in actor who played him.

Clive Mantle, the star of the widely loathed advertising campaign, is thought to have walked away with not far short of £150,000 for his work on the 12-week advertising campaign thanks to the system of repeat fees negotiated by Equity for its members. The scale of such fees, which allow a payment every time a commercial is screened, have been an open secret in advertising circles but few insiders have been willing to discuss them for fear of antagonising the powerful actor's union.

Even now no one will say exactly how much Mr Mantle will finally be paid for

his six weeks' work at Shepperton film studios, where more than 20 commercials were filmed featuring Frank, his assistant, Igor, his family and their dog, Cuddles. As Mr Mantle appears in nearly all of them, he gets most of the fees, and the saturation coverage given the campaign should ensure his place as the Marlon Brando of top earners in British television advertising.

The Central Office of Information, which handles government publicity campaigns, could not say how many times the commercials had been shown. "You are paid each time it's shown on each station, and each time you get a percentage of the booking fee you are given originally to turn up at the original shoot," a spokesman said.

Actors claim the repeat-fee system is one compensation for working in a profession which offers little job security

and long periods out of work. But the fees are just one aspect of the overmanaging which still prevails on the filming side of the advertising industry at a time when staff directly employed by the big agencies are being laid off in droves. Only a few big agencies have their own in-house film crews. The others are required to rely on a complex and expensive network of sub-contractors.

Mr Mantle's agent, Marjorie Abel, said the actor was unavailable for comment and currently considering offers of work for the new year. She would not know until the end of January how much he would earn from electricity, but she was "frankly amazed" at suggestions that it could go well into six figures. "He wouldn't want to discuss the financial side of it," she added.

Market report, page 30

RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS.



THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE.

Waldegrave shuns 'supermarket' approach to NHS

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM Waldegrave, the health secretary, yesterday called for bridge building between doctors and politicians, and openly criticised the "supermarket" language used by his predecessors.

Mr Waldegrave's remarks in the Trafford Memorial Lecture to the Royal College of Surgeons were in marked contrast to the confrontational approach of his predecessor, Kenneth Clarke.

He said that his intention was "to build bridges between politics and the medical profession", and he emphasised that the commercial approach to the health service should not be overdone.

Mr Waldegrave, who has been actively courting both the royal medical colleges and the joint consultants committee in an attempt to gain their co-operation with the NHS reforms, said: "The NHS is not a business; it is a public service and a great one. I think we have overcome the language of commerce in relation to the NHS. We have been carried away by our enthusiasm for what we have borrowed and we have alarmed quite a lot of people who think we do not know the difference between a hospital and a supermarket."

"Our 'customers' do not come because the price of beans is less, or because of the pretty girl in the advertisement; they come because they are ill, not seldom frightened, and they want help and expect care," he continued. "You are not shopping for goods when your child's temperature goes suddenly to 106 and her eyes

have rolled upwards into their sockets: you want an expert and fast."

Earlier Duncan Nichol, the health service chief executive, disclosed that he had written to all general managers warning them that success of the internal market would depend on consultants and other professional staff being involved in all stages of drawing up the contracts.

Mr Nichol told journalists in London that about 280 family doctors are expected to become budget holders in April as part of the health service reforms. They will be given their budgets for buying hospital care at the end of January or the beginning of February.

Although more than 450 GPs originally expressed serious interest in the scheme, those were whittled down to 350 earlier this year and the final figure is likely to drop to about 280 by April, after negotiations on budgets have taken place with regional health authorities.

As new statistics were published showing that the number of beds in England and Wales fell by 5 per cent between 1989 and 1990, Mr Nichol indicated that many of the 2,000 beds now closed in London might not reopen next year. It was important to reassess the picture once the internal market was operating, he said, but it might be that beds were reopened in the shires at the expense of those in inner London.

Mr Nichol would not be drawn on whether a London teaching hospital would close,

but suggested that any further capital developments in the city should be flexible to allow for a fall in the number of patients.

He emphasised that more people were being treated in fewer beds. The number of in-patients treated had risen by 2 per cent, while day cases had increased by 14 per cent, according to the latest statistical bulletin.

● The King's Fund independent charity has set up a commission to develop a strategy for health services in London throughout the 1990s and beyond. The commission, which includes Baroness Julia Cumberlege, Marmaduke Hussey and Baroness Patricia Hollis, was set up to respond to the financial difficulties facing London and expected to worsen under the health service reforms.



Jones: new blood for Scotland Yard

Man in the News: Wyn Jones

High-flier who was destined for the top from the start

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

WYN Jones, now under investigation for alleged "improper police work", joined Scotland Yard six years ago as the youngest deputy assistant commissioner in the force's history, with the probability he would rise to become a chief constable or even the commissioner. Starting as a police constable in Gloucestershire, he was a chief superintendent by 36 and an assistant chief constable by the age of 40.

One of a trio of thrusting young provincial officers brought in to the Yard by Sir Kenneth Newman to inject new blood into the senior ranks, Mr Jones has earned a reputation as a man to be feared as much as admired. Tough, articulate and demanding, he has shown himself prepared to take decisions and defend them aggressively. He joined the police at 19 and, early in his career, he was

marked as a high-flier and chosen for a special course for potential top officers. He took a law degree part-time.

Mr Jones spent much of his early career in Gloucestershire before moving to Thames Valley in 1976 to take command of policing in the area around Newbury. In the early 1980s, as an assistant chief constable, he worked under Sir Peter Imbert, now the commissioner and then chief constable of Thames Valley.

He came to London to run the support department for top level CID operations and, within a year, was deputy assistant commissioner in charge of policing much of east London. He was already well versed in the sort of controversial policing London can produce. As an assistant chief constable in the Thames Valley force, he had been responsible for the police operation at Greenham Common.

A few months after taking over the east London command, he was again facing difficult policing problems when the Wapping dispute between News International and the print unions erupted in January 1986. Police handling of a demonstration at the end of the dispute almost a year later brought an investigation, supervised by the Police Complaints Authority, into allegations of police brutality and mismanagement.

In September 1989, he became one of four assistant commissioners at the Yard and placed in charge of personnel and training.

Yard to investigate, page 1

Top policewoman suspended from duty

THE Assistant Chief Constable of Merseyside, Alison Halford (right), the most senior policewoman in Britain, was yesterday suspended from duty after an investigation by the Police Complaints Authority (Ronald Faux writes).

A statement issued in Liverpool by Merseyside police said that the investigation carried out by Mr Tony Leonard, deputy chief constable of the Sussex force, had covered allegations of neglect of duty and discreditable conduct. As a result of Mr Leonard's report, handed to the Merseyside police and to the complaints authority on December 7, the proposal for suspension was confirmed yesterday. Miss Halford, aged 50, will remain suspended from duty until either the action is dropped or until

charges are heard by a disciplinary committee set up by the Lord Chancellor.

Last September, Miss Halford began an action to prove that sexual discrimination within the police had damaged her career. She is due to appear before an industrial tribunal in January accusing the home secretary, her own chief constable, the Inspector of Constabulary and Northamptonshire police of alleged discrimination. She claims that she has been repeatedly passed over for promotion because she is a woman.

At her home on the Wirral last night, Miss Halford said: "I am not allowed to say anything but what I will say is that when you take the establishment to an industrial tribunal, things get very rough and very dirty."



Halford: suspended from duty

Yard to investigate, page 1

Brooke attempt to revive talks today

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER Brooke will today attempt to revive his initiative for inter-party talks when he outlines to Unionist leaders a formula designed to break the deadlock over when Dublin should enter the negotiations.

The Northern Ireland secretary is likely to suggest to James Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionist party, and Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist party, that it is left to him to decide at what moment the Irish government should become involved in the talks.

Mr Brooke's plan for political progress stalled five months ago when the Irish government objected to a proposal that it would come into talks only when "substantial progress" had been made in discussions about the future administration of the province. The initial talks would be part of an interlocking set of negotiations involving relationships between the

north and south of Ireland and between London and Dublin.

The Irish government does not object in principle to Mr Brooke deciding when it becomes involved in the discussions. It will only give full support, however, to the idea on the understanding that Dublin will become involved at an early stage in talks on the province's administration.

Mr Brooke's proposal has caused differences between the two leaders, as Mr Paisley believes it could provide a way of breaking the deadlock without causing serious difficulties for his party. He argues that the DUP would be able to veto the talks if it did not agree with Mr Brooke's decision on the timing of Dublin's entry into the negotiations. The UUP, however, insists that Dublin should only enter the talks when substantial progress has been made, and remains opposed to any departure from that formula.

AT LUNCH, IN THE COBBLED SQUARES AND COURTYARD GARDENS, THE LIGHTER REDS ARE GOOD COMPANY FOR LOCAL DISHES, AND ALWAYS MAKE EASY DRINKING.

Chess title race Gary Kasparov, the world champion, used the king's Indian defence in the 19th game of his defence against Anatoly Karpov in Lyons, France, last night. The opening developed into a race between Karpov's attack on the queen's wing and Kasparov's pressure on the king's side. After 18 moves Karpov had used 67 of his allotted minutes for the first 40 moves while Kasparov had used 75.

High Court rejects Osman application

By BILL FROST

BRITAIN'S longest serving remand prisoner, Lorrain Osman, yesterday lost the latest round in his legal battle to avoid extradition to Hong Kong, where he faces trial on fraud charges.

Last week Mr Osman, a banker aged 56, began his sixth year in custody. He is being held in the maximum security wing at Brixton prison in south London.

Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Garland said in the High Court Mr Osman's claim that he was being made to stand trial in Hong Kong as a "scapegoat" was unsustainable, and rejected his fourth application for a writ of habeas corpus.

The judges said that his application was an abuse of the process of the court because all the grounds on which it had been based had been, or could have been, raised at the earlier High Court hearings.

Mr Osman's lawyers said they were considering an appeal to the House of Lords.

Hammond to go

Eric Hammond, general secretary of the Electrical, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union since 1982, yesterday announced his intention to retire. Although not required to step down until 1994, Mr Hammond, aged 61, said he could not allow more than five years to pass without an election. Paul Gallagher, the president, is expected to emerge as a successor.

Head of steam

A steam railway has raised £172,000 in a share issue to improve its service. The North Yorkshire Moors Railway, which operates between Grosmont and Goathland, will use the money to build an exhibition centre and extend platforms. Shareholders will be repaid in travel concessions.

Green belt order

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, told Tameside borough council in Greater Manchester yesterday not to give permission for a £140 million development in the Manchester-Tameside border without first seeking special approval from his department. North West Water wants to build a business park, golf courses, private housing and leisure facilities on the stretch of green belt.

Chess title race

Gary Kasparov, the world champion, used the king's Indian defence in the 19th game of his defence against Anatoly Karpov in Lyons, France, last night. The opening developed into a race between Karpov's attack on the queen's wing and Kasparov's pressure on the king's side. After 18 moves Karpov had used 67 of his allotted minutes for the first 40 moves while Kasparov had used 75.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Wife of Yorkshire Ripper 'evasive and dishonest'

By ROBIN YOUNG

SONIA Sutcliffe was yesterday accused of being evasive and dishonest when questioned in the High Court over an application for housing benefit.

Mrs Sutcliffe, wife of Peter Sutcliffe, who killed 13 women and became known as the Yorkshire Ripper, was completing her evidence on the eighth day of her libel action against the *News of the World* over an allegation that she had a holiday affair with a Greek tourist company director.

Mrs Sutcliffe was questioned for more than half an hour by George Carman, QC, counsel for the newspaper, about a form claiming housing benefit which she sent to Bradford council while there was £23,800 in an account in her name with the Newcastle Building Society. The money came from £25,000 paid by *The Yorkshire*

Post in the unpublicised settlement of a breach of copyright case. Mrs Sutcliffe agreed that she had filled in the benefit claim form stating the amount of capital she had as none. Asked why she did not declare the money in the building society account she replied: "Because I truly believed I did not have it at my disposal."

Mrs Sutcliffe said: "I am not a businesswoman. Finance accountancy is not an expert field of mine. I was leaving this area with my solicitors to deal with. I thought all my moneys had been distributed legally, spent, used, or allocated for future purposes."

Mr Carman asked repeatedly for a straight answer. Mrs Sutcliffe insisted that she had filled the form to the best of her knowledge, saying that she did not believe the money was hers, and that she had

Doors 'left open' on day of Deal bomb

By RAY CLANCY

THE room at the Royal Marines' school of music at Deal, Kent, where a terrorist bomb exploded, was left unlocked in spite of a state of high security because the key was broken, the inquest into the deaths of 11 bandmen was told yesterday.

It was well known that it was easy for an intruder to get into the barracks over several low walls. A terrorist could have been in the room where the device was planted in 30 seconds, the inquest at Dover was told.

The bomb, which exploded on September 22, 1989, was placed under a sofa in the recreation block which was used as a coffee room by bandmen. There were two entrances, a pair of double swing doors into a foyer and another door at the far end to the changing rooms, which was always secured at night.

Corporal Robert Gibbs, who was responsible for locking up at 4 pm the day before the explosion, said he secured the doors to the changing room but was unable to lock the door between the coffee room and the foyer because there was no key. "There was a broken key on the bench. I presumed it was the key for that door," he told the inquest. He said the swing doors in the foyer were never locked because bandmen needed access to notice boards there. Sergeant Bryan Walker said: "The

inner room was left open so that people could get in at any time. We often finished engagements late and it was left open so that we could go in to press our uniform or to relax and have a cup of coffee."

Two bandmen gave evidence that there were low walls near the coffee room. Sergeant Walker agreed with Richard Allfrey, counsel for the family of one of the dead bandmen, that it would be possible for someone to drive a car up a track beside adjacent allotments and to reach the coffee room in 30 seconds.

Musician Stephen Close said that he had seen someone inside the boiler room just before midnight on September 21. He said he assumed it was a security guard. Later, the inquest was told that neither the marines who patrolled the barracks nor the private security guards were allowed to go inside buildings.

Reliance Ltd, of Chatham, Kent, provided 21 guards at the barracks who were responsible for checking identity cards at the main gate, undertaking patrols, and dealing with unauthorised persons.

Robert Clark, a district manager with the company, said it was clear when the firm's contract began in January 1988 that there was room for improvement in the security of the perimeter walls, but it was not the firm's responsibility to do so. The inquest continues today.



Young achiever: Yvonne Meadi, who is deaf and blind, being congratulated by the prime minister after she was named Young Deaf Achiever for 1990 yesterday. Miss Meadi, aged 19, from Bounds Green, north London, has been profoundly deaf since birth with a gradual loss of vision since her early teens. She has become a member of Mensa, has done well academically, and works for Cleveland county council as a computer programmer. She was presented with a cut glass bowl and a cheque for £500

Mother stabbed in tussle

By NICHOLAS WATT

A BRITISH mother was stabbed in Cairo as she tried to take her three children from their Egyptian grandfather, police said yesterday.

Pamela Green, aged 37, from London, who has been fighting her Egyptian-born former husband for custody of the children, was yesterday said to be stable in the intensive care unit of a Cairo hospital after four hours of surgery.

It is alleged that Mrs Green was attacked in a scuffle as she tried to grab her children from her former father-in-law as he took them to school on Tuesday.

The British Embassy in Cairo confirmed last night that Mrs Green's daughter, aged ten, was being looked after "temporarily".

Treasure hunters keep gold ring

By PETER DAVENPORT

Middleham, North Yorkshire, during a metal-detecting rally. He was sweeping the field, accompanied by a fellow enthusiast, Brian Snowdon, aged 63, a welder, also from Hartlepool, and the ring was found three inches below the surface.

A report on the origins and history of the ring by John Cherry, an expert on medieval jewellery with the British Museum, was read to the inquest at Leyburn, North Yorkshire, yesterday. The report, read to the jury by Sheila Hartley of the Yorkshire Museum, said that the ring could date to the late 14th century.

A gothic inscription inside the ring read "Sovereynly" which was said to mean either a supreme degree or with supreme powers, as in sovereign. On the outside of the ring were 12 raised S's, the sign of the House of Lancaster.

In his report, Mr Cherry concluded that the ring, made of 93.8 per cent gold and weighing 10.5 grammes, was likely to have belonged to a supporter of the Lancastrian kings of England in the 15th century.

After the jury returned a verdict that the ring had been lost and therefore belonged to the finder, Mr Angus said that any proceeds from the sale would be split between himself, Mr Snowdon, James Pincher, the rally organiser, and the farmers who own the land, Peter and Terry Walton. "Any money we get is just a bonus because the real joy is that I have found a piece of history. It is a beautiful ring, nearly 600 years old and I believe it was worn by a king."

Jeremy Cave, the coroner, commended Mr Angus for obeying the law and promptly handing his find over to the authorities. "This is not treasure trove so I do not have the glee of announcing I am seizing it for the Crown."

Fresh sorrow comes to a stricken fishing community

THE six crewmen of the fishing boat Premier, lost off the coast of Shetland yesterday morning, should have sailed back to port this Saturday with their last catch of white fish before Christmas. Last night, their families were in a state of shock.

The men from Hopeman, Lossiemouth and Burghhead were the latest victims in a seemingly endless list of tragedies that have scarred the fishing communities along the northeast coast of Scotland for centuries. It is estimated that more than 140 men have perished off the northern coasts of Scotland in the past 20 years alone.

A fortnight before Christmas, another nine children are feared to be fatherless and five women are thought to be widows. Deep sea fishing is one of the most dangerous professions in the world, as graveyards along the

More than 140 men have drowned off northern Scotland in 20 years, Kerry Gill reports. Now six more are feared dead

Moray coast prove. In spite of the appalling weather that regularly drives down the North Sea, those waiting along the Grampian coast refused to give up hope last night.

Sandy Main, whose son, also Sandy, aged 26, was feared drowned, said: "We have to wait and hope, but I don't think there is much hope. The boat would have turned turtle and given them no chance."

More than 20 years ago, Mr Main and other men from Burghhead searched in vain for survivors of the Roschud when it sank off Oban. "I was looking for

men lost at sea then. Now I am waiting for one of my own," he said.

Peggy Edwards, mother of Ned Edwards, the Premier's skipper, from Hopeman, said: "We are just waiting and praying they got to the lifeboats and that they can still be found." She has lost three sons, Ned, Joseph and Neil, whose wife is expecting their second child. He decided to go at the last minute. Mrs Edwards' husband John, a retired fisherman, collapsed with shock.

Twelve years ago this month, Hopeman lost nine men when the Acacia Wood capsized. A former owner of the Premier lost a brother, an uncle and a nephew in that tragedy. Since then, 50 men from the villages have been lost.

Few people in the fishing villages are left unscathed by deaths at sea. Most families have been fishing for generations, but in recent years the job has become more dangerous. In the past, most boats fished for herring and a vessel could be back in port within the day. Since the herring cutbacks in the 1970s, however, the fishermen have had to travel hundreds of miles to find white fish.

Fishing boats can be lost in seconds. In 1981, the Celerity was caught in a storm in the Pentland Firth. There was a sudden snow storm and, when it cleared, the vessel had vanished. Sandy Bruce, the skipper, and his crew from Buckie were drowned. Buckie, 12 miles from Lossiemouth, has lost 24 men since June 1979.

The Rev John Stuart, Hopeman's Church of Scotland minister, said: "The villages are devastated by the news, particularly coming so close to Christmas." The village's Baptist minister, the Rev Bill Orr, said:

Boat race may be lost to the small screen

By JOHN LEWIS

MANY television viewers may lose the right to watch the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, the Commonwealth Games and the early rounds of Wimbledon after moves to drop them from the ten major sports events protected by the government.

If the moves were successful, promoters would be able to buy the exclusive rights for pay-per-view screenings in cinemas across the country, at large venues such as Wembley or on satellite television.

Peter Lloyd, the new broadcasting minister, is writing to the BBC, the Independent Television Commission, sports organizations which hold the television rights of important events, the Sports Council and the Central Council for Physical Recreation about the proposals.

He is emphasising, however, that they are subject to consultation. There has already been opposition.

Robin Corbett, the shadow broadcasting minister, said: "The importance of these national events is that something like 87 out of every 100 viewers watch one or all of them. They are among the most popular events on television and they do have a special place in our national life."

It was vital, he said, to preserve open access for all those who enjoyed watching them. "In the long term the proposals could also damage sport because it will cut audiences and could affect gates. If there is a restricted audience this could also discourage youngsters from taking an active part in sport."

Denis Howell, the shadow sports minister, said it was extraordinary to suggest that the first week of Wimbledon should be tendered. "At present the BBC mounts a mammoth operation for two weeks, and to propose to chop it in half is quite incredible," he said.

John Cartledge, chairman of the Conservative backbench sports committee, said he welcomed any lifting of restrictions. "The public may have enjoyed these sports for a long time, but it may also have not been getting the best coverage," he said.

There were further strong protests both in the Commons and the Lords when the government weakened the protection of the ten events in the Broadcasting Act, which given royal assent last month.

BBC job cuts save £2.5m

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is saving £2.5 million by shedding 91 television production jobs in Bristol. Production budgets in the southwestern region are also being cut by 10 per cent.

The move, which comes after the BBC Midlands region announced 80 redundancies, is part of a strategy to save £75 million annually by 1993 to fund a more competitive pay structure. There have been 100 redundancies in network radio, 802 in network television, 184 in engineering and 266 in regional broadcasting.

Broadcasting unions forecast over 2,000 job losses in network television as a result of the government's requirement that 25 per cent of programmes must be made independently by 1993.

● The BBC has made Margaret Salmon, Burton group's personnel director, the first female member of the board of management.

In 1965, disgraceful house building caused a public outcry. Parliament and lenders agreed to support the NHBC.

Police campaign to improve ways of questioning suspects

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

POLICE have launched a campaign to improve their questioning techniques in response to research which shows that many officers have little idea how to conduct an interview and often appear more nervous than suspects.

Admitting that their approach to date has been far too haphazard and unscientific, senior officers want all officers, uniformed and plain-clothed, to receive standard training in interviewing. Research on how to identify and question susceptible suspects will be stepped up.

A study of more than 7,000 interviews conducted by police from various forces found that, while it is rare for police to attempt to trick suspects into making confessions, detectives are often chaotic in their approach and capitulate at the slightest obstacle.

A research paper, outlining the study, says: "In a significant number of cases the allegation was never put to the suspect. In others the questioning appeared to lack basic preparation and planning. Many of

the officers seemed more nervous than the suspect."

About 16 per cent of suspects exercised their right of silence, the decision in each case depending on the seriousness of the offence, the suspect's criminal record and, most importantly, whether the arrested person was able to gain legal advice before the interview. Of those who had not seen a solicitor before the interview only 5 per cent remained silent, but of those who had 33 per cent refused to answer questions.

The research, conducted with the help of psychologists from Kent university, showed that aggressive questioning was now far less common and that the trend was towards a bland, information-gathering style. That does not seem to have caused a rise in the proportion of suspects who deny offences.

Of a sample of 1,067 interviews conducted last year by Metropolitan police officers, 42 per cent of suspects made confessions, roughly the same number denied the allegations and 16 per cent remained

silent. Stephen Moston, of Kent university, said the study demolished the idea that police often gained admissions through skilful questioning. "We encountered remarkably few cases in which suspects were persuaded to deviate from their initial response to police questioning."

Dr Moston emphasised that there was room for improvement. "Police are not always that good at controlling the flow of information during interviews and, as a result, they fail to get confessions when they should."



Visiting time: Angela Rumbold, the Home Office minister responsible for the prison system, at Pentonville prison in north London, yesterday, on the latest of her fact-finding visits to English jails. With her is the prison governor, William Abbott. The prison, a low-security establishment serving London and the South-East, holds about 900 adult male prisoners who are either on remand or serving short medium to long-term sentences.

Priority on suicide prevention

PRISON officials have been told by the home secretary to redouble their efforts to reduce suicides by prisoners (Quentin Cowdry writes). Kenneth Baker said that preventive measures should be given high priority.

Governors have been told to conduct more regular and thorough reviews of suicide-prevention plans. They are also to receive guides outlining the importance of inmates receiving proper assessments on entering jail and of staff maintaining scrupulous checks on prisoners regarded as at risk. The move, which

comes as ministers face growing public concern about the number of suicides, was welcomed by penal reformers. Some, however, claimed that Mr Baker's announcement was driven more by the prospect of the imminent publication of two highly critical reports by the Prisons Inspectorate.

A Labour government would introduce a court inspectorate, a sentencing council and a special tribunal to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice, Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, said yesterday.

Lawyers refuse legal aid work because of pay

ACCESS to justice, which used to be the underlying principle of the legal aid scheme, is fast becoming determined by where people live and the nature of their dispute.

The Law Society's open letter yesterday to Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, that cited cases in which people can no longer obtain legal aid because lawyers will not do the work on present rates of pay is just the tip of the iceberg, solicitors say.

In Horsham, West Sussex, only three firms now take on criminal legal aid work, compared with 14 four years ago. David Redstone, clerk to the Horsham Justices, said yesterday: "You can imagine the impact this has on the court lists. We struggle to run both morning and afternoon lists. But when you have one solicitor with 14 cases who has to come before three courts, and is usually acting as the duty solicitor as well, it causes enormous delays."

He added: "The magistrates have to go away and read some papers for 20 minutes and then he might

The Law Society says that legal aid is no longer available in some parts of Britain, Frances Gibb reports

in central London, do. It is an increasing problem."

James Purrie, of Russell Jones and Walker, described the "ripple" effect in which big City firms passed their legal aid clients to him. A fifth of his caseload is now referrals from other firms, and is one of the biggest sources of work, he said.

"It's reached the point where I cannot take on any more cases - I already do a 60 hour week. So I have to pass them on again to firms further out and, almost certainly, the firms I pass them to will have to pass them on in turn."

His net pay on a legal aid case works out at £31 an hour, Mr Purrie said. "This compares with the hourly charging rate of £91 an hour that I need to charge just to break even and cover overheads and salaries. So I have to do three times as much work under the legal aid scheme to break even."

Roger Smith, director of the Legal Action Group, which represents lawyers and advice workers handling legal aid, said: "There is certainly a problem in some parts of the country in finding a legal aid practitioner specialised in fields such as housing, employment or immigration." The problem was not just payment. "It is a mixture of pay, the training of legal aid lawyers and their expectations of legal aid practice - firms do not devote their resources to developing expertise in these fields."

The question of access to justice and the growing number of people who are excluded from legal aid or from the courts because they cannot afford to pay lawyers privately is now being taken up by the Consumers' Association. David Trench, its legal director, said: "We are concerned about legal aid. Whereas, up to now, who gets legal aid and who does not has largely been a matter of fiscal policy, things are now such that legal aid has become a major issue of access to justice."

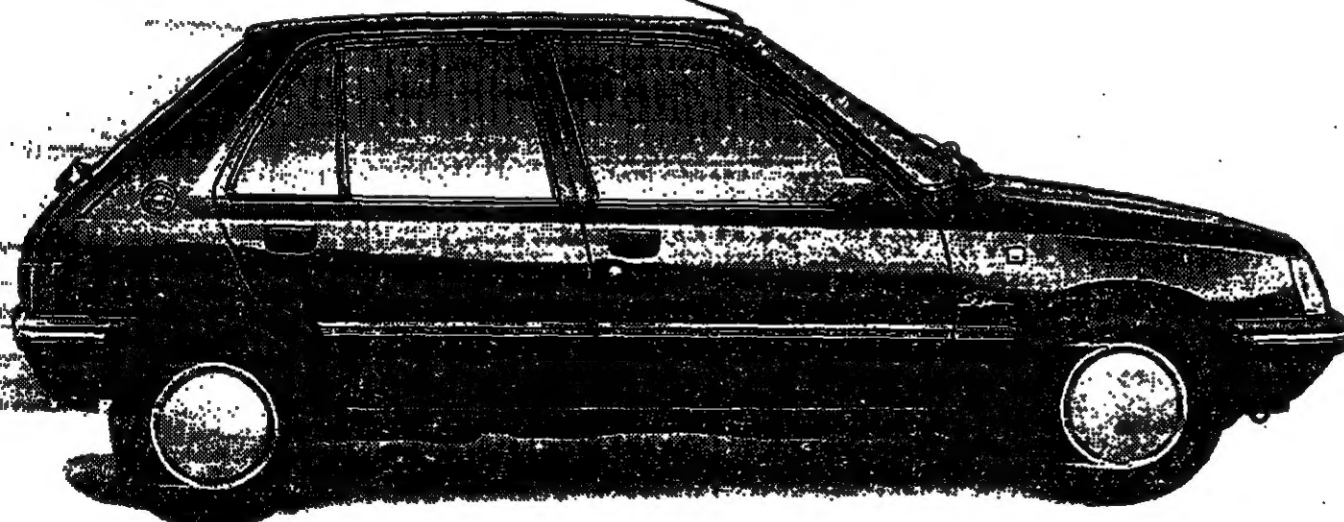
Recently, the Lord Chancellor said that there would be no extra money for the legal aid scheme. Mr Trench said: "We feel it is important therefore to ensure that the money is being well spent. We intend to start a study to see where the money goes and to see if it could be better targeted."

Leading article, page 15

"Surely it's about time that buying a diesel was as economical as running one."

Message understood

The new Peugeot Special Edition Style diesels



Diesels have always been economical to run, but a higher purchase price has often been a barrier to buying one. Now Peugeot, the world's leading diesel manufacturer, have introduced the 205 and 309 Style diesels which - together with two major financial offers - make buying a diesel even more economical. Style diesels start from an attractive £7,430*.

PUTTING THE STYLE INTO DIESEL

With Peugeot you don't have to sacrifice style for economy. The chic 205 Style is highlighted by the bright yellow bumper inserts, and the elegant 309 Style by the smart body pinstripe. Both cars proudly display the special Style badging and aerodynamic wheel covers. Inside, the 205 has unique grey denim trim with yellow piping. The 309 is graced with a grey chequered trim, which discreetly complements the exterior colour.

YOUR STYLE OPTIONS

	205 Style D	309 Style D
COLOUR	STEEL GREY MIDNIGHT BLUE ALPINE WHITE	CHERRY RED REGENCY RED CALYPSO BLUE ALPINE WHITE
TRIM	GREY DENIM 3DR AND 5DR	CHEQUERS GREY 5DR

STYLE WITH DRIVEABILITY

Peugeot diesel technology combines smooth, refined power with carefully engineered suspension. This ensures that the 205 and 309 Style diesels are easy and satisfying cars to drive, whether you're nipping around town or taking the family on holiday. They're reliable too: the AA has chosen 309 diesels for 150 of their car inspectors, who drive thousands of miles a year and demand the very best reliability and economy.

STYLE WITH ECONOMY

Diesel is a cleaner, more economical fuel and throughout the year has consistently cost less than petrol. Plus Peugeot diesels are renowned for their economy (the 205 Style D can do up to 72.4mpg at a constant 56mph; the 309 Style D returns 64.2mpg at a constant 56mph). They are inherently robust engines, with less to go wrong - so garage bills are likely to be lower. Peugeot diesels have a long life, so they hold their value well - when you come to sell your car, you can price it accordingly. To all these economical benefits, Peugeot have added two more:

FREE £200 INTRODUCTORY BONUS

For a limited period, all new Peugeot 205 and 309 diesel cars are available with a £200 Introductory Bonus. It works like this: Claim your

Bonus Voucher by calling the FREEPHONE number below. Then, if you buy and register a new 205 or 309 diesel between 10th December 1990 and January 31st 1991, your dealer will validate the voucher. Simply return it to Peugeot's Head Office and you will receive a cheque for £200 direct from Peugeot. The bonus will not affect the deal you make with your local Peugeot dealer - so you are likely to save a lot more.

TO CLAIM TODAY, SIMPLY CALL
0800 300 705

PLUS PEUGEOT FLEXIBLE FINANCE**

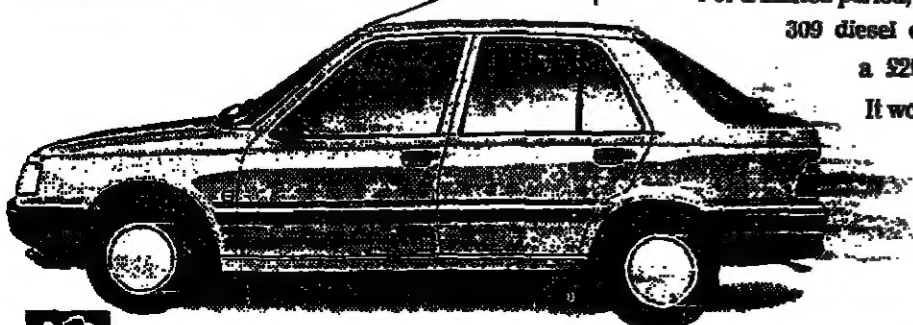
Peugeot are offering a number of attractive finance packages, including low deposit and deferred payment options. The table below gives an example of how much easier it could be to own your new Peugeot diesel. Ask your dealer for details.

ON THE ROAD PRICE	205 3dr Style D
	£7,830.00†
LOAN PERIOD	48 MONTHS
FLAT RATE/APR	7.9%/15.3%
DEPOSIT (10%)	£783.00
MONTHLY PAYMENT	£193.21
FINANCE CHARGES	£2,242.08††
TOTAL COST	£10,072.08

*Price for 3dr 205 Style diesel excluding 6 months road tax, number plates and delivery - estimated cost £800.

Diesels have always been economical to run. Now a Peugeot diesel is more economical to buy.

PEUGEOT DIESELS
FUEL FOR THOUGHT



PEUGEOT. THE LION GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

†† Official fuel economy figures for 205/309: 205 3dr Style D 72.4mpg on motorway, 54.4mpg on urban, 64.2mpg on combined. 309 3dr Style D 64.2mpg on motorway, 54.4mpg on urban, 59.4mpg on combined. Figures are for a 1000 litre tank. Actual figures may vary. † Price for 3dr 205 Style diesel excluding 6 months road tax, number plates and delivery - estimated cost £800. ** Peugeot Flexible Finance is a service provided by Peugeot Finance. It is a loan agreement between you and Peugeot Finance. The loan is repaid by monthly payments. The interest rate is fixed at 7.9% for the first 24 months and then rises to 15.3% for the remainder of the loan. The total cost of the loan is £10,072.08. The deposit is £783.00. The monthly payment is £193.21. The finance charges are £2,242.08. The total cost is £10,072.08. The loan is repaid by monthly payments. The interest rate is fixed at 7.9% for the first 24 months and then rises to 15.3% for the remainder of the loan. 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Demands grow for no-fault medical compensation

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

JOHN Major's decision to award an extra £42 million to haemophiliacs infected with the Aids virus has renewed demands for an overhaul of the present system of compensating victims of medical accidents.

The government agreed to pay 1,200 haemophiliacs and their families for the pain, suffering and financial hardships they experienced because blood products used on haemophiliacs had been contaminated by the Aids virus. It did not await a court verdict on whether medical negligence was proven.

Thousands of other people who have been disabled or brain-damaged after medical intervention are awaiting the outcome of legal battles to prove negligence. The court cases, many of which continue for years after the patient or doctor involved has died, are prohibitively expensive for most would-be litigants, apart from the minority entitled to legal aid.

Nicholas Almond, aged ten, from Leeds, won £1,156,000 damages in the High Court earlier this year after he was born with cerebral palsy. He attends a normal school but he cannot sit or stand unaided, and his speech is badly impaired. He needs expensive computer equipment to enable him to write. Day-care costs, including speech therapy and physiotherapy, now amount to £30,000 a year.

The health authority admitted liability early on. Nicholas's mother had been left in labour too long at Leeds maternity hospital and the oxygen supply to his brain was obstructed. It took the Almond family nine years, however, to obtain compensation.

There is a growing band of support for a system of no-fault compensation under which all victims of medical accidents would get state support irrespective of whether medical negligence can be proved.

The number of claims has escalated in the past few years as patients have become more aware of their rights to legal redress. Some doctors are beginning to practice defensive medicine — carrying out too many tests, or not intervening when they should — to avoid litigation.

An estimated 4,500 new claims

are brought every year, roughly ten per 100,000 population. At the same time, the size of the awards has increased from a high of £100,000 in 1977 to £1 million in 1987. Awards for similar injuries are often inconsistent. A child who suffers brain damage due to obstetric mismanagement, for example, could get £500,000 to £700,000, whereas a child suffering brain damage after vaccination might get £20,000.

The rising cost of medical insurance premiums for doctors led to the transfer of indemnity costs from the medical defence unions to health authorities. From January 1 this year doctors have been protected by Crown indemnity and health authorities have to pay legal costs and the awards granted, where negligence is proven. So far, they have been able to draw on a central fund transferred from the defence societies to pay for claims over £300,000, but this is expected to run out by the end of next year.

The first £1 million claim a self-governing hospital will have to pay out will bankrupt it. Yet the move to give responsibility for indemnity to the National Health Service paves the way for a system of no-fault compensation. Under such a system compensation payments might be lower, but fairer, and more people would benefit. Awards would probably be set for care under the NHS rather than the private sector as they are now.

Last week Rosie Barnes, Independent Social Democrat MP for Greenwich, presented a private member's bill on no-fault compensation, which has all-party support. Her bill would ensure that a person suffering from an injury or unnecessary pain during NHS care would be awarded compensation without having to prove negligence.

This week Sir Donald Acheson, the government's chief medical officer, and the Royal College of Physicians joined the calls for a no-fault scheme. In its report, *Compensation for Adverse Consequences of Medical Intervention*, published on Monday, the college outlined its no-fault compensation scheme. Cause would not have to be proved by the courts, but would be decided by a medical board, probably set up by the health and



Nicholas Almond, who was born with cerebral palsy, received £1,156,000 compensation this year after a nine-year battle

social security departments. Awards would be capped to make the system affordable. Prospective loss of earnings, for example, would be limited to average net earnings and non-economic damages, such as pain and suffering, would also be capped.

The system could be topped up by insurance schemes which the college suggests should be tax-deductible. Lump-sum payments would be strictly limited and, wherever practicable, periodic payments, reviewed at stated

intervals, would be made.

The system is likely to be opposed by some members of the legal profession who would lose out if compensation was no longer decided by the courts. The Association of Victims of Medical Accidents fears that a no-fault system will let doctors off the hook. "Many of our clients are not after financial compensation. They merely want an explanation of why something happened," it said yesterday.

Letters, page 15

Innovative scheme pays out fairly and promptly

From Richard Long in Wellington

NEW ZEALAND'S no-fault accident compensation scheme, established in 1974, was a world first and regarded as an innovative piece of social welfare.

An accident compensation commission provides prompt, fair and reasonable compensation to every accident victim. This superseded the legal rights for individuals to sue through the courts for damages in cases of negligence.

The third Labour government, which introduced the scheme, argued that the system was more logical than redress via litigation, which snarled up the courts and often provided more money for lawyers than victims.

While the scheme has in general won wide acceptance, employers have questioned their ever-growing levies. Inconsistencies and absurdities in pay-outs have also been criticised. On one occasion a prisoner was awarded more than £10,000 in compensation when he was injured falling off a prison wall while trying to escape.

The New Zealand scheme arose from a royal commission of enquiry on compensation for personal injury, which reported in 1967. The philosophy behind the scheme was that the community should accept responsibility for accidents. Total expenditure of £300 million a year is funded by levies on employers and the self-employed paid through the inland revenue levies on motor vehicle owners paid at the time of registration, and general taxation.

The benefits include earnings-related compensation at the rate of 80 per cent of normal average earnings, with a maximum cut-off and adjustments for partial incapacity or loss of potential earnings. There are lump sums for permanent physical impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, for pain and suffering and/or disfigurement, medical rehabilitation and re-training expenses, and funeral expenses and compensation to dependants in the case of fatal accidents.

Initially the scheme was administered by a three-man commission, but this was changed in 1980 to a commission of not more than six government-appointed members. As well as providing rehabilitation and compensation for accident victims, the accident compensation commission is charged with promoting safety in the workplace.

Calls for normal environment for disabled workers

In spite of 40 years' successful work by Remploy, the employment agency for the disabled, there are calls for schemes to encourage more firms to take on handicapped staff, Paul Wilkinson reports

ROYAL approval for the work of Remploy, the employment agency for the disabled, will be cemented today when the Queen tours one of its factories in Acton, west London.

She will be fulfilling a promise to celebrate the factory's 40th anniversary, scheduled for last year but postponed because she had influenza. The visit, however, comes at a time when the issue of providing work for the disabled in a specialist environment is under close government scrutiny.

New Year's Eve is the closing date for observations on an employment department review published this summer, *Employment and Training for People with Disabilities*. The review, the department said, "looked at the relevance and effectiveness of government services to the disabled in the Nineties, having regard to demographic changes, development of the service sector and the trend towards self-employment".

One of the proposals canvassed is a move away from such purpose-built centres for handicapped workers as that at Acton, where 90 disabled people produce packaging for industry, to the sheltered placement scheme which provides jobs at ordinary companies.

Remploy was set up at the end of the second world war by a government anxious to show its disabled servicemen that their sacrifice had not been in vain and that they would not be forgotten in peacetime. Today, however, the workforce is as likely to be made up of people with mental handicaps as physical. It has a £100 million turnover, employing 9,000 people in 93 factories across the country, and provides a variety of goods ranging from furniture to food.

To keep pace with the intense competition of today's business world Remploy has had to produce and market its goods as professionally as any other business. Production costs, however, are higher. Wages are paid on union-agreed scales, but the difference is made up by employment department funding, last year amounting to £57 million. A mark of Remploy's new efficiency can be seen by a comparison with 1985, when it had a grant of £46 million and a turnover of £56 million.

Similar schemes for about 5,000 more disabled people are run by several charities and local authorities, but the government would be happier if more money was spent on its sheltered placement scheme. About 6,500 people are employed in that way and government research indicates that those workers can cost the Treasury as little as a tenth of those in a purpose-built establishment.

Such charities as the Spastic

Society are anxious that the scheme should be expanded, although it acknowledges that some workers will always need the support of a Remploy-style environment.

Brian Lamb, the society's head of campaigns, said: "For once we are in tune with the government over something that could bring greater integration with able-bodied people and greater involvement in community care."

Remploy, however, said it was concerned that a reduction in its work could lead to an increase in the numbers of unemployed mentally handicapped people wandering the streets.

Employers of more than 20 staff are required by law to ensure that 3 per cent of their workforce are registered disabled, but in practice few achieve the target. The employment department's review suggests

● For once we are in tune with the government to bring greater integration with the able-bodied ●

that it is difficult to justify such an "ineffective" law, especially as only 1 per cent of the workforce is registered disabled. Many disabled groups fear that the quota will be abandoned as a consequence or at least scaled downwards.

Mr Lamb said that the argument should be turned on its head, with the percentage increased and employers given financial incentives to co-operate. In Germany, he said, the quota was 6 per cent. Employers received equipment modification grants to enable handicapped people to operate machinery.

He also claimed that the figure for registered disabled people was so low because there was no incentive to be registered. "Many more people would register if they thought it was worth their while. At present they are no better off if they do and consequently they see no reason to."

Remploy said it believed it had nothing to fear from changes in the system. "Virtually all of the 9,000 people we employ could not be found work outside our factories and we already run a similar placement scheme called Interwork, which employs around 500 people."

The agency was adamant that the quota system should continue and companies be given incentives to make sure that they employed the correct percentage, which did not happen at the moment. One way, it added, would be for companies to be compelled to state the figures when publishing their annual reports.

Cash shortage forces review of research programmes

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

SHORTFALLS in financial support are forcing the Medical Research Council to undertake a serious appraisal of its research programmes. Dai Rees, secretary of the council, said it might be forced to postpone or cancel planned initiatives in Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, human nutrition and the link between genetic defects and heart disease and cancer.

Dr Rees, introducing the council's annual report yesterday, said

that he expected a £5 million shortfall next year. Considerable agitation and pain were inevitable, he said. "It may not sound a lot in a budget of £190 million but when you start looking at where you can make savings, you get concerned."

Two developments were now on a knife edge, he said. One was a proposed £10.5 million building for the Dunn nutrition unit in Cambridge, to be funded by industry and the council. That was an important project because of the importance of diet to health and the introduction of novel

foodstuffs which needed testing. However, neither the food industry nor the council was finding it easy to produce the money.

Another project at risk was a plan to set up with the British Diabetic Association a centre of excellence in diabetic research at a university. Plans were advanced with several universities showing interest, but it now seemed likely that they would have to be scaled down. "We are considering what is the minimum sum we can spend to develop something worthwhile," Dr Rees said. The council

is closing three units this year and will not rule out more closures next year. Directors of units have been told to freeze appointments, not to spend money allocated for apparatus and to reduce spending on consumable items. Dr Rees admitted, however, that the council would not escape until the financial climate improved and would have to look at long-term as well as short-term commitments. The cut-off point for funding projects would have to become even more stringent.

The financial review forced on

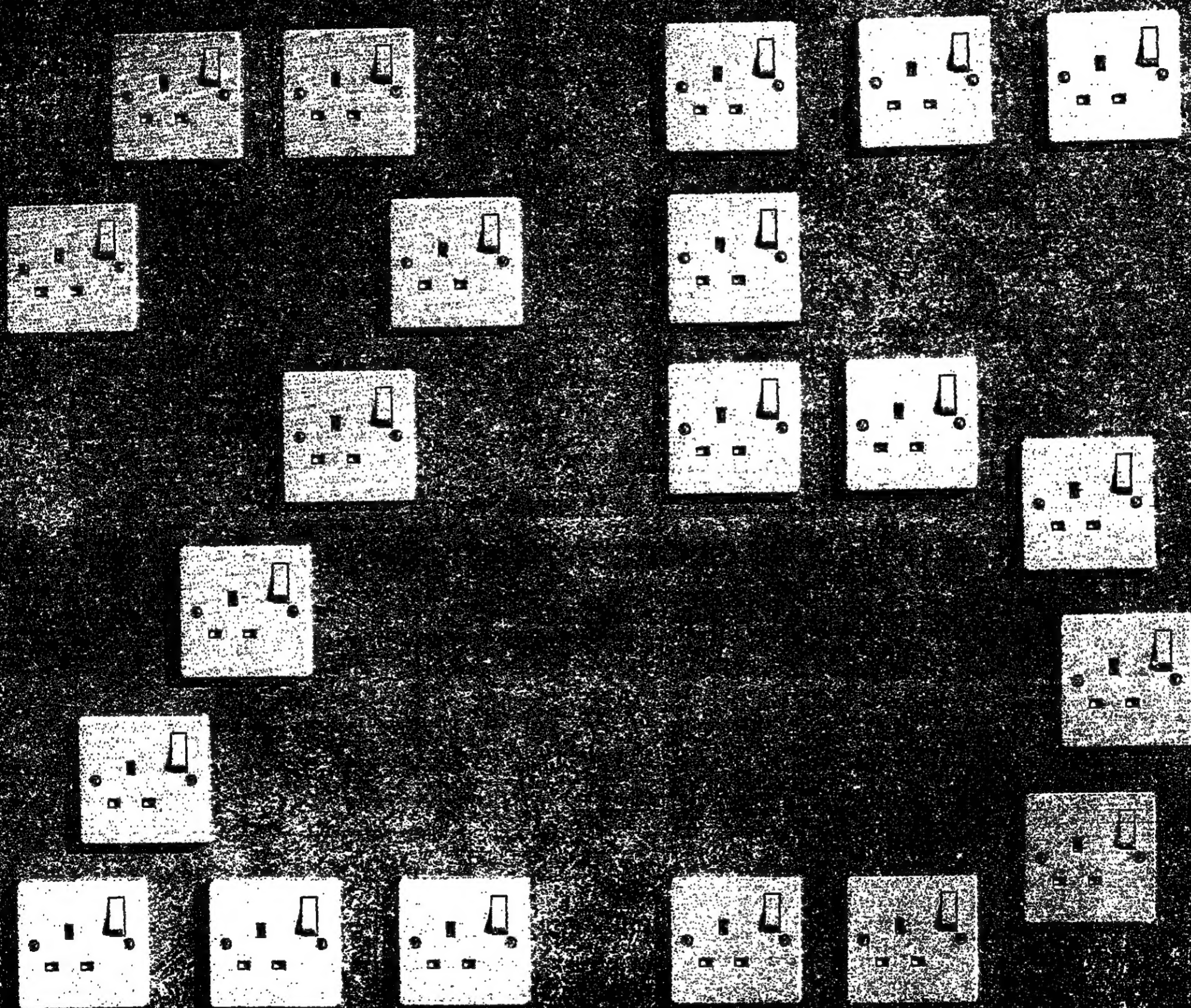
the council by a science budget that had risen by only 2.5 per cent this year would include looking again at plans for two interdisciplinary research centres, one in human toxicology at Leicester university and the other in cell biology at University College London.

"It is going to be very tough if we have to pull out of either," Dr Rees said. "We have put a lot of work into both, and people have made career decisions. But the situation is that we have to look at everything."

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Prince attacks water industry over sewage incineration

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Prince of Wales yesterday condemned plans by the water industry to incinerate sewage sludge and called for a more positive attitude to a potentially valuable resource. Otherwise, he feared, the industry would fail one of its first challenges since privatisation.

The prince's remarks were clearly directed at Thames Water which recently announced a plan to spend £200 million on two incineration plants at Beckton, east London, and Dartford, Kent. This follows the government's decision to end sewage dumping at sea.

"Sadly, all the indications are that there is a distinct lack of interest in some quarters of your industry in the idea of sewage sludge as a potentially valuable resource," the prince told a London conference organised by the Institution of Water and Environmental Management (Iwem).

"One highly respected institute has estimated that the water

industry may be incinerating more than 40 per cent of its sludge by 1998," he said. "I do understand that this may seem to be the neatest, tidiest, most convenient solution, but I do question whether it is the best solution."

The prince said the method seemed to violate the most profound ecological principle of all, which was to minimise the use of resources and energy wastage at every stage of economic process. It would require tact and co-ordination to persuade farmers, local authorities and others to take sewage sludge, but the cause was not helped by the industry opting to incinerate the sludge, he said.

"Rather than behaving as though it has an acutely embarrassing problem, should the industry not be trying to create an atmosphere of competition for a valuable resource?" he asked.

Provided that sewage sludge could be rendered micro-biologically safe, there was no reason why agriculture, forestry, horticulture and amenity land should not absorb most sludge produced in the United Kingdom by the end of the decade. It would require only a leap of the imagination and a guarantee of safety for an embarrassing glut to be turned into an embarrassment of riches.

The prince said there had been some encouraging examples. Wessex Water had elected to produce a peat substitute from sludge previously dumped at sea. In Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway regional council had found that incineration was not economically viable, and there was a lot of other evidence to suggest that sludge incineration would be at least as expensive as using it beneficially.

Paul Carren of the Water Services Association said the association would not make an official comment. He said Thames Water claimed it could not use sludge for agricultural purposes or for in-fill because of the physical impossibility of transporting it from the treatment works. Ken Clarke, a member of the Iwem council, said the industry had to consider all options, of which incineration was one.

● The Prince of Wales has snubbed campaigners trying to stop Tesco, which sells his organic bread, from bulldozing 30 acres of parkland at Golden Hill, Bristol, to make way for its latest shopping centre.

Residents asked the prince to join their campaign against the development, but he has said he cannot get involved. He has an exclusive deal with Tesco to stock his organic bread.



Children at Horsforth Woodside school. "You cannot just close a school because it is small," the governors' chairman says

Parent power costs tax payers dear

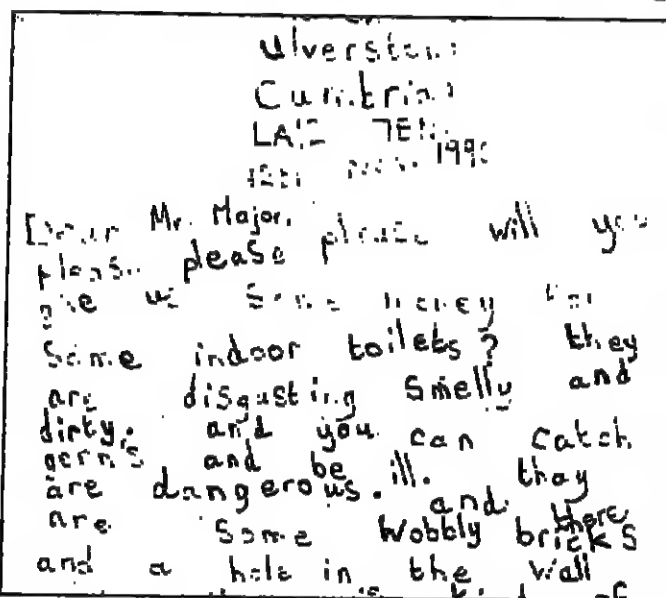
By DAVID TYTLER
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE 40 children at an infants' school in Leeds have parent power to thank for keeping open their school which could accommodate 120 pupils. The decision, repeated many times across the country, is, however, bad news for the poll tax payer, according to an audit commission report published today.

Primary schools in England and Wales have 900,000 empty desks costing poll tax payers £140 million a year. Howard Davies, controller of the commission, said. The report came as the Labour party said that an extra £1.4 billion was needed in 1991-2 for school repairs.

Paul Rayner, chairman of the governors at Horsforth Woodside Church of England infants school in Leeds, conceded that there were difficulties for local authorities seeking to rationalise schools but added: "You do not just close a school because it is small. The intrinsic merit of the school must be taken into consideration and the good ones kept open."

An inner city school where numbers have gradually declined, Horsforth Woodside was due to close in July but a campaign led by parents and staff persuaded the education department to keep it open. Horsforth Woodside was able to back its campaign with a good report from Her Majesty's



Pupil's plea to the prime minister: Louise Ramsden's letter

school inspectors, but Mr Rayner said the clinching argument was the support of the parents. "There are drawbacks with a small school," Mr Rayner said. "But there are advantages too. It helps give personal attention to the children which means there are no discipline problems."

The audit commission praised moves by Leeds city council to deal with its 22,500 spare places. Reorganisation plans were launched in 1988 and, after

public meetings, the council sought permission to close five primary schools. The go-ahead was given on only three.

Mr Davies said: "At a time when public pressure to invest in schools and teachers is strong, any opportunities to release funds and spend more effectively must be actively pursued. Excessive surplus capacity and unjustified small schools waste money and add no value to overall educational effectiveness."

Jack Straw, Labour's front bench education spokesman, said last night: "The government's record on crumbling schools is simply appalling; the backlog of repairs is now estimated in current prices at £4 billion." Labour, he said, would cancel the city technology college programme and use the money saved on repairs and maintenance.

The education department said, however, that the figure for the backlog of repairs was nearer £2 billion. "Not all school premises are in a poor condition," it said. £600 million was being spent in 1991-2.

To emphasise the poor state of school buildings, Mr Straw produced a letter written to John Major when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer, by Louise Ramsden, aged six, from Ulverston Church of England infants school in Cumbria. She wrote:

"Dear Mr Major, Please please please will you give us some money for some indoor toilets? they are disgusting smelly and dirty, and you can catch germs and be ill, they are dangerous, and there are wobbly bricks and a hole in the wall..."

Whether Louise would sacrifice her school of 100 pupils to achieve better facilities elsewhere is not known.

Rationalising Primary School Provision (Stationery Office, £5)

Attempt to block plans to build on heath

The High Court yesterday reserved judgment on an attempt by environmentalists to block plans to build 150-200 houses on 17 acres of Canford Heath, Dorset, which is a haven for some of Britain's most endangered species.

Mr Justice Schiemann hopes to decide next week whether to grant the British Herpetological Society and the World Wide Fund for Nature a judicial review of a decision by Poole borough council to allow building on the heath, most of which is a site of special scientific interest.

Sent for trial

Magistrates yesterday sent Michael Shorey, aged 34, of Upper Holloway, north London, for trial at the Central Criminal Court. He is charged with killing a former girl friend and his flatmate.

Care total drops

Fewer Scottish children are going into council care, in spite of rising reports of child abuse and broken homes. Last year, the number in care fell by 250 to 12,037, which is 5,000 fewer than in 1981, Scottish Office figures show.

Train kills ponies

Five ponies grazing on a railway line in Wirral, Merseyside, were killed when a train ploughed into them yesterday. British Transport Police are investigating.

Police raids

Nine men were arrested in dawn raids yesterday by police investigating a riot between rival football gangs. The arrests followed a seven-month enquiry into violence after a second division play-off match between Swindon and Sunderland at Wembley.

Road undermined

Subsidence of old salt mines, the last of which was abandoned nearly 60 years ago, led to the indefinite closure of almost 1½ miles of the B58 outside Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, yesterday.

Four men bailed

Detectives investigating the affairs of West Wiltshire district council released four men without charge on police bail yesterday. They are to reappear at Chippenham police station on April 11.

Cement job losses

A total of 200 staff at the Castle Cement works, Padeswood, Cwtyd, are to be made redundant, it was announced yesterday.

Dog left in hot car

Lisa Metcalfe and Hazel Sidney, from Cranlington, Northumberland, who left a puppy in a car in temperatures of 114°F while they went to the Wimbledon tennis championships, were each fined £100 and ordered to pay £100 RSPCA costs yesterday.

By 1975 our achievements were applauded worldwide
Canada and the USA protected homebuyers with programmes
modelled on the NHBC system.



MPs to launch sports enquiry

Within a few days of John Major's decision to move the role of sports minister from under the wing of the environment department to the department of education and science, the Commons education committee is to carry out a short enquiry early next year into sport in schools.

It will cover the changing nature of physical education and broadening the range of activities in schools, especially for those over 14 years; the amount of curriculum time devoted to the subject and how to ensure an adequate supply of qualified teachers.

Student aid

The maximum tuition fee reimbursed through the awards system for home students and those from other European Community countries on full-time postgraduate courses is to be increased to £2,104 in the next academic year, 1991-2. The present maximum is £1,985. Kenneth Clarke, education secretary, said in a written reply.

Help for deaf

A bill to help deaf people with support for further and higher education was introduced in the Commons by Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat MP for Gordon, who has a profoundly deaf daughter.

School buses

Regulations requiring school buses to carry warning signs are to be laid as soon as possible, Christopher Chope, roads and traffic minister, said in a Commons written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Home Office; prime minister. Debate on investigations under company and financial services law. Lords (3): Maintenance Enforcement bill, committee.

Interest rate policy must stay, Lamont insists

By PETER MULLIGAN AND ROBERT MORGAN

NORMAN Lamont signalled yesterday that there would be no early cut in interest rates, no devaluation, and no early move to the narrow band of the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

In his first Commons speech since assuming his new position, the Chancellor of the Exchequer told MPs that the government's task was overwhelmingly the defeat of inflation.

He said that the present peak of inflation — "and I think we are around the current peak" — was likely to be less than half the peak rate of the Seventies. However, he added: "Our record is not yet good enough."

Taking the historic decision to join the exchange-rate mechanism had marked a decisive change in the government's counter-inflation strategy. "We knew we were joining the tough division of the European league. We have always known the discipline on us would be considerable."

He had made clear beyond question that Britain had entered this new commitment knowingly and would do whatever was necessary to maintain its position in the ERM.

"Yet in spite of this and despite the welcome that has been given to the decision, some people, including the Labour party, have not woken up and recognised that the rules have changed. 'If they do not listen to our words, they will learn from our actions. There can be no question of a reduction of interest rates which is not fully justified by our position in the ERM."

"This will be the case, however strong the pressure for lower interest rates based on other indicators. The discipline of the ERM is tough."

"But because it increases the certainty of lower inflation, it also means that when interest rate reductions do take place, they are securely based."

Devaluation was self-defeating. Far from producing the desired stimulus to output, countries that adopted it usually ended with one result: increased inflation.

He had heard it said that the government was looking for a

covert reduction in the exchange rate by moving to narrower margins at a lower central rate. That was not so. There was no question of such a move.

His speech was interrupted by Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, who said: "He is acknowledging that this government has got the economy into such a state that it cannot risk any movement of the pound downwards, even within the ERM, even at the cost of plunging our economy ... deeper into recession."

Mr Lamont responded: "He accepts the discipline and at the same time seeks to find a way out of the discipline that he himself urged."

He said that the Treasury prediction of inflation at 5.5 per cent by the fourth quarter of next year was by no means optimistic compared with those of most outside forecasts.

He acknowledged that Britain was going through a recession but said there were reasons why one could believe it would be relatively short-lived and relatively shallow.

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, opening the debate, said that a year ago John Major, then chancellor, said that a recession was neither likely nor necessary. Not for the first time, a government prediction about the economy had proved wrong. A serious recession was spreading and bringing in its wake business failures and rising unemployment.

The present chancellor had said that the recession would be shallow and short-lived. The description shallow and short-lived was a far better description of the government's economic predictions than a description of the recession. Shallow and short-lived would join the litany of government predictions with temporary blip, freak and economic miracle.

Britain now had a huge balance of payments deficit, high inflation, high interest rates and rising unemployment because of errors made by the government. The balance of payments deficit arose to a large extent from the neglect of the manufacturing sector. The government did not understand that manufacturing industry was basic.



Lamont: we know discipline will be considerable

'Old Jack's boy' makes fine start

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN Major displayed a fresh sign of the different style of his government yesterday when he sat on the steps of the throne in the upper House to hear Lord Waddington make his maiden speech as leader of the Lords.

Peers could not recall ever seeing Margaret Thatcher in the same place during her years as prime minister.

The privilege of watching proceedings from the red-carpeted steps is granted to peers, their immediate successors, Irish peers and privy counsellors. One peer remarked that he at first mistook the prime minister for "old Jack's boy" as in practice it is a popular venue for the eldest sons of hereditary peers.

The prime minister's gesture was appreciated, not least by his own peers who remain slightly suspicious of the credentials of "young Major" and the sudden elevation of the popular Lord Belstead as leader of the Lords. His presence will also boost Lord Waddington's rating during his early days in the job.

Conservative peers backed

the foreign secretary Douglas Hurd in the leadership contest because they knew and trusted him, whereas John Major as the former chancellor was virtually unknown to them since the Lords has limited financial powers.

To a predominantly elderly House, Mr Major also seems disconcertingly young. His pursuit of a "classless society" in no way worries the peers because, once they take their seats, they too are judged on their merits.

To the newly created Lord Waddington the formal style of the Lords must still appear bewildering after the Commons. Later, he may come to appreciate the place's ironies.

Plenty of euphoria but no early election

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

AFTER the announcement of an extra £42 million for haemophiliacs, in the wake of talks between John Major and his health secretary, William Waldegrave, one excited Tory greeted me with the comment: "There you are then. A caring government. It is going to be an early election." I doubt it.

Some Tory euphoria is only to be expected. The enormous swing to the Conservatives in the opinion polls after the leadership election has lifted eyes from the situations vacant columns to the political horizon. However, MPs who would like the new party leader to cash in on the honeymoon factor should pause and reflect. If there is one golden rule for politicians it is "be true to yourself" and John Major is the kind of politician who looks both ways before crossing a one-way street. His appeal is based on something more than a promise to create the classless society and on not being Margaret Thatcher. He is valued as a straight man with an instinct for doing the decent thing. If he were to dash frantically to the country for a renewed majority, he would risk transforming his image overnight into that of a flashy opportunist.

The public is suspicious of elections called before they need to be. Ask Edward Heath.

There might just have been a case for an early election if Michael Heseltine had won the leadership. He had not been a member of the cabinet in this Parliament: having for years picked and chosen from the Thatcherite menu, he could have claimed the right to ask the country for a mandate. But John Major has been in cabinet all through this Parliament. The policies in place, even though now open to revision, are the ones to which he assented. More than that, he has been the Chancellor of the Exchequer proclaiming that he had the cure for Britain's economic problems.

If he were to make a dash for it before the recession hit its deepest point, then Labour could justifiably claim that he lacked faith in his own medicine and was seeking to "con" the electorate before things became much worse. The easiest job in politics would be writing speeches for John Smith and Neil Kinnock.

Any politician who built his hopes on a lead in the opinion polls of less than two or three months standing, given the present volatility of the electorate, would be a fool, and Mr Major is far from that. His close

colleagues agree that he more than most needs to soldier on until there is a lead in those polls built not on the shock of the new but on the solid achievement of turning around the economic indicators. Entry into the ERM at the level he chose has complicated the business of bringing down interest rates and it was not until the last quarter of next year, remember, that Chancellor Major was promising us inflation down to 5.5 per cent.

Since that was the fifth promise in a series of lower inflation rates, the public will want to see some proof this time before the polls reflect a genuine conviction of better times ahead, providing the sort of secure platform for an election required by a party leader going to the country before he has to. But there are other reasons for John Major not to hurry. He needs longer yet to demonstrate what kind of prime minister he intends to be. He looks like one determined to live up to the slogan on which Alec Douglas-Home (claimed, along with Iain Macleod, as his political inspiration) fought the 1964 election: "Prosperity with a purpose". But it will need more than "headline grabbers" such as the welcome aid for haemophiliacs to demonstrate that a new set of political priorities is being put into effect. His chief advantage as a new party leader is the popular instinct to "give him a go" and that is an instinct that can be made use of whenever he decides to call the election.

Besides, what advantage is the Opposition likely to gain from any delay? The longer the election is put off, the more Mr Kinnock seems the dated figure. Although his party's supposed worries about the Labour leader have been mostly imaginative froth so far, the likelihood of genuine doubts surfacing will increase if Labour continues to lag in the polls.

If we were to see an election before next June I would be surprised. Next year's poll tax bills will still then be fresh in the memory. Mr Heseltine, remember, is saying that it could take two years to sort out a replacement. And the European Community inter-governmental conference could be facing the British government by then with electionally awkward choices on the future of Europe.

For me, next October still looks like the real "early option". And Mr Major can wait until July 9, 1992, if he wants to.



John Major

Local income tax demanded

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE poll tax should be replaced with a local income tax, the most influential centre-left grouping in the Tory party says today in a pamphlet sketching out a new agenda for John Major in the Nineties.

The paper from the Tory Reform Group, which counts seven cabinet ministers including Michael Heseltine among its patrons, argues that long-term changes in the financing of local government should go hand in hand with a structural upheaval.

"We see a local income tax as the only equitable way forward... A change to a local income tax dictates the need for a change in the structure of local government itself... We envisage single-tier authorities based either on boroughs or large conurbations and outlying districts within the old county councils," the paper by Neale Stevenson, editor of the group's quarterly journal, says.

Under that approach, the government would set a national budget and tax levels to pay for it. Streamlining the local bureaucracy would lead to "massive savings" in the cost of local services. Councils wishing to spend above the norm on, say, housing, would be free to set higher local tax rates but would have to answer for it at the ballot box.

"This system allows a purer measure of efficiency and accountability than that offered by the community charge; and it removes the greatest objection to the

charge — its alleged unfairness."

The paper marks the beginning of a comeback by the one-time wets of the Conservative party. As *The Times* indicated in October, that was in the wind before Margaret Thatcher's fall, but it has been given added impetus by Mr Major's arrival at 10 Downing Street and the advent of a less ideological style of leadership.

The pamphlet shamelessly borrows from the title of Mrs Thatcher's doctrinal guide, *The Right Approach*, published in 1977. This updated version, *The Right Way Forward*, advocates a tough economic policy combined with

innovation and compassion in social policy. Its recommendations include:

- The independence of the Bank of England as a precursor to an independent European central bank.
- Eventual achievement of a single European currency through the intervening stage of the government's plan for a common currency circulating alongside EC currencies.
- A confederal rather than a federal Europe.
- A big pay rise for teachers in return for accepting job appraisal.
- No turning back on the commitment to pay for the welfare state out of taxation.

RN repair costs

TOO many committees and overlong repair times could be adding to the navy's £900 million annual budget for maintaining the fleet of 173 vessels, the Commons public accounts committee said yesterday (Sheila Gunn writes).

The service chiefs overseeing the fleet maintenance programme liaise through a committee structure that even the defence ministry acknowledged "appeared frightening". The committee said that the defence ministry should take a lesson from the private sector in tight cost controls.

Committee of Public Accounts 42nd report: *Ministry of Defence Fleet Maintenance* (Stationery Office, £6.45).

THREE WISE MEN



Airlines will have to pay

The Home Office is taking vigorous action, including civil proceedings, to recover more than £13 million levied on airlines and shipping companies for bringing in passengers who lack proper documentation.

Peter Lloyd, under secretary, Home Office, said in a written reply that a total of £22.8 million had been incurred by operators up to November 13 under the 1987 immigration act. Of that, £8.1 million had been paid and £11.1 million waived after representations. Writs were taken out against four airlines in July and three had settled out of court.

Final demand letters had been sent in October and November to all carriers with outstanding debts, producing payments, promises and requests for urgent meetings which were being arranged.

EXPERIENCE THE PLEASURE OF LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT ALFRED DUNHILL.



Alfred Dunhill will be open from 9.30am until 7.00pm on Thursday December 13th, Thursday December 20th and Saturday December 22nd.

dunhill

Late night shopping at Alfred Dunhill, 30 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6DI

مكتبة الأصيل

Move by Gorbachev designed to counter flagging KGB morale

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE chilling warnings given by Vladimir Kryuchkov, the head of the KGB, have angered Soviet radicals but left many ordinary Russians cold. They regarded Mr Kryuchkov's statement that the Soviet intelligence services and their troops were ready to counter opposition to Soviet rule wherever it was found as entirely appropriate to the role of the KGB, unwelcome, but unsurprising.

Mr Kryuchkov's broadcast was the third by a leader of the law enforcement establishment in as many weeks, and the most alarming.

The defence minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov, stated that the army had the right to fire on civilians who attacked military property and the right to take over power stations and food distribution. The new interior minister, Boris Pugo, conveyed his message of iron discipline and social order.

All three claimed to have been authorised to speak by the president and none implied any threat to the present Soviet leadership.

Their appearances are said to have been requested by President Gorbachev after he told parliament that if deputies wanted a tougher approach, it was theirs for the asking. If President Gorbachev seems assured of

the almost unquestioning support of the army high command, the leadership of the interior ministry, and the KGB, however, this does not necessarily mean that he could count on all of them equally or absolutely in a crisis. Each agency has its own armed troops, which have different functions and different traditions.

The interior ministry troops are thought to number up to 400,000, including the feared anti-riot squads, the Omon. They were made directly responsible to the president, and so separated from the army and the KGB commands, by special decree in 1989.

While the Omon have the reputation for professional ruthlessness, the ordinary interior troops are often conscripts. The use of the interior troops, in preference to the regular army or KGB, in civil disorders has made service in the interior troops highly unpopular.

This branch may be one of the least reliable forces at Mr Gorbachev's disposal. The law on states of emergency stipulates, however, that enforcing an emergency is the task of the interior troops.

Interior troops are unlikely to be deployed, however, without back-up from the regular army. Morale in the

army, as in the interior troops, is not high. The withdrawal from Eastern Europe, cuts (if only cosmetic) in defence spending, poor conditions for returning officers, and the Afghanistai experience have all contributed to this, coupled with the feeling until recently that Mr Gorbachev was not paying due attention to the military.

The president has no guarantee that even the regular army could enforce Soviet rule in the outlying republics.

The KGB troops, who constitute the elite of an elite, are the ones he must increasingly rely on. KGB troops guard Soviet leaders and control especially sensitive military installations, including all nuclear facilities.

The KGB also has branches in the army and the interior ministry, where they are believed to exert tight control.

Recently, however, even the KGB has shown signs of restiveness.

But there is no evidence of divisions in the KGB that would greatly weaken its effectiveness. The best way of raising KGB morale is probably to widen its remit and give it a freer hand. If Mr Kryuchkov's statement is an indication, that is exactly what President Gorbachev has done.



Making an exit: John Gotti, accused of offences under a gang-busting statute, leaving the FBI's Manhattan offices after his dramatic arrest in Little Italy.

Movie moguls upstaged by FBI club raid

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

FRANCIS Ford Coppola might be forgiven a little envy. While his long-awaited *Godfather - Part III* is reported to be languishing in the cutting room only two weeks before its release, the real-life FBI and the Mafia have upstaged him with a drama worthy of the *Corleones*.

Feds Bust Gotti in Little Italy, the *New York Post* blared yesterday after the media were invited to witness the arrest of John Gotti, alias the Dapper Don, the "reputed" head of the Gambino crime family, along with three lieutenants, including Salvatore (The Bull) Gravano, his alleged consigliere. For the FBI it was a moment to be savoured after all the frustration. Mr Gotti, who is said by the government to run America's biggest mafia clan, has won acquittal and media celebrity in four trials since 1985. "We've got him nailed this time," said one jubilant officer.

It was 7 pm and cold on Tuesday night at the Rave Social Club, Mr Gotti's alleged place of business on Mulberry Street, the location of all those gangster movies. The self-styled "plumbing executive", sleek in hand-tailored overcoat and yellow silk scarf, was driven up to the club in his silver limousine. "Alpha team, moving in," crackled the FBI agents' radios.

In nearby Prince Street, two officers jogged up and burst into the alleged mob headquarters. One yelled: "Everybody, up against the wall!" Police then stormed inside. Mr Gotti, now wearing handcuffs, but with his grey pompadour still perfectly coiffed, was escorted to a less opulent car. He did not forget to flash his trademark smile to the reporters, who had also been snaking out the street. "No problem, boys," he quipped. "Somebody told me when I walked in here that I was going to get pinched tonight."

Mr Gotti is charged with a bookful of offences mostly covered by an umbrella statute which helped the FBI cripple lesser gangsters as well as insider traders. The FBI alleges the Gambinos' main business is in the old-fashioned mob areas of gambling, hijacking, loans, and union racketeering, as well as the more modern drug trafficking.

The centrepiece in the case is a charge that he engineered the murder of Big Paul Castellano, his alleged predecessor as boss of the Gambinos, who was gunned down outside Sparks Steak House in Manhattan five years ago. New information has also provided evidence to charge Mr Gotti with murdering Dec. Dec. Di Bernardo, a family capo whose body was never found, police said.

To date, the NHBC warranty scheme has rescued
over 50,000 families, including
13,000 left stranded by bankrupt builders.

The road to a united states of Europe

WHEN nations draw up constitutions, they do so with a solemn and almost theatrical sense of occasion. The American founding fathers were full of high principles and high sentiment, even when the constitutional conference in Philadelphia bogged down in wrangling. Similarly in Sicily in 1955, the foreign ministers of the original Six had a conscious eye on posterity when they drew up the Treaty of Rome in Messina.

Tomorrow, Europe's leaders will begin an equally momentous task: developing the political and economic shape of Europe. The two inter-governmental conferences, opening within hours of each other, will draw together all the visions of the federalists, the objections of the doubters, the proposals and the mechanisms for creating the most far-reaching

changes in West European political life since the end of the second world war.

From the two constitutional conferences may emerge, in less than a year, a Europe more deeply integrated, more irrevocably committed to a single federal structure than ever Robert Schuman, Paul-Henri Spaak and the other founding fathers foresaw 35 years ago.

The conferences will deal with three separate but related issues: developing a common foreign and security policy, extending the commission's fields of activity and streamlining the EC's decision-making procedures.

All have become more urgent this year in the light of the turbulent events in Eastern Europe, the prospect of enlargement of the community, the rapid

The task facing Europe's leaders at their Rome meeting has been compared to the momentous decisions and high purpose with which the founding fathers of the United States of America grappled in Philadelphia, Michael Binyon reports

advance to economic and monetary union and a rising disquiet in national parliaments and governments that vital decisions are being taken on the EC's future behind voters' backs.

The conferences arose from a call in April by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and President Mitterrand of France, for a rapid new push towards EC political integration to respond to world events. Their call, fleshed out in a formal proposal last week, prompted the convocation of a

separate meeting to run parallel with the one revising the Treaty of Rome to enact economic and monetary union. Since then, experts from each member state have been defining the issues they want to discuss. The Italian presidency has summarised these in a paper that will form the basis for the conference agenda — though other issues may be added once the talks get going.

Most countries, apart from Britain, now see a need to extend or redefine the jurisdiction of the

community. They want drugs, immigration and the control of frontiers, currently covered by informal co-operation among the Twelve, brought into the ambit of a new treaty. They want the commission to have new powers over social affairs, the environment, education, research and technology, tax, health, culture, tourism, energy, telecommunications and transport networks. They also think that more decisions should be taken by qualified majority vote. But all are

worried about empire-building by Brussels and say the principle of subsidiarity — leaving to member states issues best covered at national level — should be written into the treaty.

All countries, including Britain, want some extra powers for the European parliament: the right to nominate the president of the commission, confirm new commissioners, control the EC budget, audit accounts and take abuses to the European Court.

Few want any right for parliament to initiate legislation. There is also a split between the French, who want only cosmetic change, and the Germans, who want real new powers for Strasbourg, partly in order to create a credible body to oversee the functioning of a politically independent European central bank.

Small countries such as Luxembourg and Ireland are worried at being swamped by a more powerful parliament.

On foreign policy, all agree that the Council of Ministers must remain the principle decision-making body. Most believe security must be brought into the new union, focusing on the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and disarmament negotiations. But there is a deep split over defence. Ireland, because of its neutrality, and Britain, insisting nothing should undermine Nato, do not want any merger of the Western European Union with the EC. Others want a gradual overlap, with mutual defence guarantees underpinning political union.

Leading article, page 15

Major facing test of pace and footwork

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

TACTICS for John Major's first European summit as prime minister will be finally decided at this morning's cabinet meeting before he flies to Rome tonight. Essentially ministers must decide on the pace of European integration, Britain's chances of slowing it down, and what the risks are in the development of a two-tier Europe with Britain in the second division.

For Mr Major the pressures are intense. He needs to prove himself in the international arena as he has already done on the domestic scene and must convince the summit that Britain without Margaret Thatcher is a willing European partner without encouraging the belief that London can now be pushed around.

In the wake of Mrs Thatcher's departure, Britain's European partners, seeing the swift action on such domestic issues as the poll tax, will be looking for signs of an easing in British attitudes on European policy. Mr Major has to find a way of satisfying them that he meant what he said during the leadership election about getting on to the European pitch and joining a "constructive dialogue" on the way forward.

He must ensure that he is not outflanked as Labour moves towards supporting economic union, but at the same time he knows that the band of Eurosceptics in his party, virtually all of them among the 185 MPs who voted for his leadership, will be coming through the small print of any communiqué agreed in Rome for signs that he has weakened in his promise to have nothing to do with an imposed single European currency.

The prime minister has no taste for an independent central bank, or even for an independent Bank of England, so there is little he can give the expectant Europeans in

BRITAIN

policy terms: it will all have to be in the style and tone.

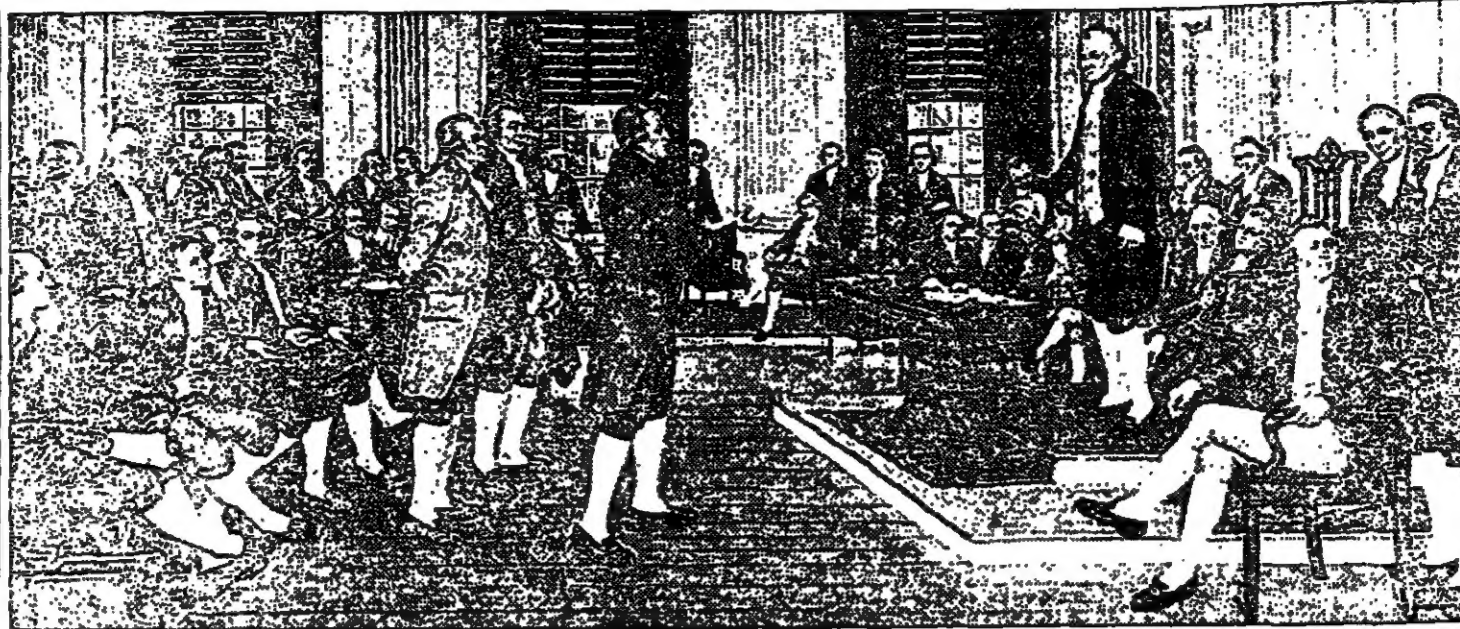
Europhiles in the Conservative party would like to see Mr Major signal a new era by signing up to the principle of full economic and monetary union, with an independent central bank and a single European currency while reserving for national parliaments the right to determine the timing of participation by each state. They believe that, in response, Britain's 11 community partners might make concessions on Mr Major's plan for the hard ecu to be a voluntary transitional stage.

Mr Major has claimed more allies on that plan than we have seen committed in public. But any European cavalry on this issue has remained out of sight. In Rome, Britain will have to demonstrate that there are European governments who see the hard ecu plan as something more than a cosmetic compromise to keep the Tory party together.

What Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, are determined to do is to resist any attempt by the Italian presidency to set timetables for the deliberations of the two inter-governmental conferences on political and economic union.

The British have been insisting that this weekend's summit will be concentrating on political union (on which it will be easier to drag out the discussions) rather than on monetary union. But that could prove to be wishful thinking.

Another objective in Rome will be the building of a relationship with Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor. The chemistry was never there with Mrs Thatcher, but Mr Major knows he must establish a dialogue with one of the chief architects of the new Europe.



The United States constitution, received by George Washington in 1787, top, bound disparate states into one nation. Was the agreement for the European Community at Messina in 1955 by foreign ministers of the European Coal and Steel Community members, above, also the instrument of a united states of Europe?

Currency melting pot

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

ECONOMIC and monetary union is the most far-reaching change proposed for the European Community since its inception in 1957. It would, the former chancellor Nigel Lawson said last year, inevitably lead to the United States of Europe. EMU is much further advanced than political union, and already the EC has implemented the first stage of the three-stage process. Jacques Delors, the commission president, believes that there will be a single currency in Europe before the end of the century.

There have been several earlier abortive attempts to promote a single currency, but the real precursor was the European Monetary System, set up in 1979 by France and Germany to stabilise exchange rates. This proved very successful in holding down inflation and, encouraged by the Germans, the 1988 Hanovert summit asked M Delors to draw up a feasibility study for full economic and monetary union. His committee, comprising all 12 central bank governors and other experts, reported in April last year with a detailed proposal that has been the blueprint for the current proposals.

M Delors suggested a three-stage timetable. The first, which began in July, called for greater economic convergence, the inclusion of all currencies in the exchange rate mechanism, the completion of the internal market, abolition of all exchange controls and tighter mutual surveillance of each others' economies. The second, a transition stage, would set up the European system of central banks, though economic policy would remain in national government hands. Most countries now agree this should begin in January 1994. The third stage, for which no date has been set, would see the transfer of full economic and monetary competence to EC institutions, the irrevocable fixing of exchange rates and the introduction of the ecu as a single currency for the whole community.

Debate over EMU has largely pitted Britain, which does not accept the final aim of a single currency, against its 11 partners, which do. Britain's blanket opposition, however, was significantly modified in Madrid last June, when Mrs Thatcher was persuaded to agree to stage one, and to join the exchange rate mechanism "when the time is ripe". Britain tried then to stall, propo-

ing the use of competing currencies in each country so that the strongest drove out the weakest. No one took the idea seriously.

John Major, the new chancellor, then produced a more sophisticated "hard ecu" plan. This accepted most of the Delors report's aims, but insisted the ecu should become a common, not a single, currency. EMU should come by evolution, not decree.

Though the subsequent political convulsions in Britain have changed the tone of the argument, in substance Britain is still isolated in opposition to a single currency.

EMU could bring enormous financial benefits. A recent assessment by the commission said output would rise by 5 per cent, the EC would save up to £13 billion a year in transaction costs, the rate and variability of inflation

would fall, governments would have less costly public debt service and the community could better weather outside shocks such as a new oil crisis.

Despite British objections, the momentum now looks unstoppable. Two weeks ago, EC finance ministers drew up the possible statutes for Eurofed, confirming that the bank will be run much on the lines of the Bundesbank, committed to price stability and politically independent. Britain registered an overall reserve. But the shape of the organisation that will rival the United States Federal Reserve Bank in power and economic clout is already clear.

The inter-governmental conference is more about tidying up details than deciding questions of principle. All Britain's partners need do is convince John Major.

Learning the rules of EC word game

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

THE following is a brief explanation of the terms used in the debate about the future of the European Community:

□ **Acquis communautaire**: entire corpus of EC law as adopted by states throughout the community's existence.

□ **Comitology**: choosing the appropriate management committee for EC legislation. The mix and balance of a committee reflects the balance of power between the commission and member states.

□ **Common position**: the first stage of council adoption of single-market legislation, preceding parliament's second reading of a directive.

□ **Co-operation procedure**: the procedure enacted under the Single European Act which gives the European parliament the right to a second reading of single-market legislation. It introduces strict timetables for parliamentary opinions and council decisions, and the procedure restricting the council's authority to ignore amendments.

□ **Committee**: the most confusing word of all. A European council means a summit, held every six months. A council meeting means one of the regular meetings of ministers from all 12 states. The Council of Europe is the Strasbourg body set up in 1948 that has nothing to do with the EC.

□ **Democratic deficit**: the lack of proper democratic accountability

in many areas of decision-making in the EC, especially within the commission and by the Council of Ministers, who are not collectively responsible to national parliaments.

□ **Derogation**: a temporary exception to EC law, allowed to member states unable to comply with new directives within the usual two-year transition period.

□ **Legal base**: the choice of the article in the Treaty of Rome on which a proposed directive by the commission is based. All articles dealing with the single market allow for voting by qualified majority (qv), while others must be taken unanimously.

□ **Qualified majority**: the minimum number of weighted votes needed for council adoption of single-market legislation. Big countries have ten votes each, smaller members have between two and eight. A qualified majority is a minimum of 54 votes from a total of 76, cast by no fewer than eight member states; a blocking minority is 23 votes.

□ **Subsidiarity**: the principle that decisions should be taken at the lowest level possible, leaving to Brussels only those which need to be taken at EC-wide level. This principle would enshrine the right of member governments to continue making the bulk of decisions, and may be written into any new treaty.

Muddle of minds in Paris

FRANCE

By GEORGE BROCK

THE reunification of Germany and the liberation of Eastern Europe have brought forth new streams of thought in France. While the government remains in favour of integrating the European Community more closely in order to lock in the newly enlarged Germany, there has been a revival of Gaullist support for a wider and looser *Europe des patries*.

The approach by President Mitterrand to the monetary union negotiations displays all the signs of a conceptual muddle. Formally, in Rome in October and elsewhere, the government is backing a single European currency.

A few days before, Pierre Bérégovoy, the finance minister, delivered a speech in which he appeared to be edging towards support for the British-designed hard ecu, but not for its open-ended evolution, as London would prefer. But he also forecast the need for a strengthened "economic government" to handle the single currency; that puts quite some distance between the French and German positions as they will unfold in detailed talks.

On political union, France is slowly emerging as increasingly reluctant and gradualist in practice, while remaining in favour of the abstract principle. Germany favours a more powerful European parliament, and devolution to regional governments. The French wish to beef up the Council of Ministers and do not wish to empower regions at the expense of Paris. The grouping of the right, the RPR, this month strongly reiterated the Gaullist case for a loose grouping of all European states.

Strained axis, page 14

Kohl's Soviet card

GERMANY

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

WITH the downfall of Margaret Thatcher, Germany is looking forward optimistically to the summit and the two inter-governmental conferences on economic and political union. The visit by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, to Berlin on Monday to deliver a speech on Britain's ideas for future European security is seen as proof positive of a new spirit of co-operation between London and Bonn.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, will be going to the conference tables in Rome seeing himself in the role of Community godfather, providing most of the money and ideas to lead the way into a stronger federal Europe.

He will be armed with a threat and a promise. The threat is that unless the Community does more to help President Gorbachev as he struggles to introduce economic reforms in the Soviet Union, there is a real danger there of anarchy or a return to a totalitarian state.

The EC decision to provide £2.2 billion aid to the Soviet Union is seen here as a good first step. Herr Kohl, worried at the prospect of his country having to absorb a flood of refugees from the east if things go wrong there, will be wanting a more comprehensive plan and package.

The promise is that if the EC follows the German model, an era of prosperity and world influence will open up before members. This vision will be unveiled at the inter-governmental conferences, where Germany will try to insist on members accepting its ideas on monetary union piecemeal and will urge the policy paper agreed last week with France as the agenda for political union.

Germany can be expected to oppose the entry of any country not prepared to meet its monetary conditions, including the crucial one of low inflation rates.

A GUIDE TO WHERE THEY STAND

	Full federal Europe	Single European Parliament	More tightly binding	More EC members	Extending EC jurisdiction	Common defence policy	Common foreign policy	One currency
BRITAIN	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	MAYBE	NO
BELGIUM	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
DENMARK	MAYBE	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
FRANCE	YES	MAYBE	YES	MAYBE	YES	YES	YES	YES
GERMANY	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES
GREECE	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	MAYBE
IRELAND	MAYBE	NO	YES	YES	MAYBE	NO	YES	YES
ITALY	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
LUXEMBOURG	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
NETHERLANDS	YES	YES	YES	MAYBE	MAYBE	NO	YES	YES
PORTUGAL	MAYBE	YES	YES	MAYBE	YES	MAYBE	YES	YES
SPAIN	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

*Including right to make laws **Including merger of EC and Western European Union

Speaking up for one family

By PHILIP HOWARD

EUROPEAN unification is not a grey-suits' club or a federal takeover but a family reunion. We are all brothers and sisters under the skin and across artificial frontiers. Our collective name registers this. Europa was a girl from Tyre (in what is today Lebanon) who was kidnapped by a bull while playing on the beach. He swam to Crete with her and metamorphosed into Zeus, the rampant king of the Greek gods. Their progeny was the Minotaur, and Europa's name became ours.

If you want the truth behind the myth, it says that European civilisation came originally from the cradle of man in what Europeans call the Near East. It was transmuted by Greek genius and spread around the world by Roman competence. All Europeans are the children of our Graeco-Roman culture. Christianity followed a similar path into the wide world.

European languages proclaim our common ancestry. About three-quarters of English words come from our grandmothers' tongues. Latin and Greek, either

directly or by way of another European language.

Some words common to all European tongues come from the original lost Indo-European language, "mother", "name" and many of our words for numbers among them. Others came into English from Latin even before our Anglo-Saxon forefathers invaded our offshore island. You can recognise these because they retain the contemporary Latin pronunciation of "v" as "w": wine from *vinum*, wall from *vallum*.

Latin words that came later, through Norman French, preserve odd spellings behind our pronunciation: debt from *debitum*, kipper from *cuprum*. Very early the English decided to call a male duck a drake from the Greek and Latin *draco*, a dragon. Fifteen centuries later our sister linguists, the Spanish, reversed the joke by calling Sir Francis Drake *El Draco*. Romance ("from the Roman") languages have an even higher proportion of ancestral Graeco-Roman words than English.

European literature is a lake in which Homer, Virgil, Dante,

Shakespeare, Cervantes, Racine and Goethe swim. Once you have dived into it everything will lead you to everything else. We inherit tragedy and comedy and the name and the notion of the theatre from the Greeks.

Family portraits were invented by the Romans. European philosophy has been a footnote to Plato since his time. Doctors still take the Hippocratic oath. Much of Europe uses Roman law. Where does opera come from other than an attempt by Jacopo Peri to revive classical tragedy? Our quantum and relatively revolutions came from asking the original Greek question: why? And computer technology is a descendant of the passion of our Roman ancestors for the sister question: how?

It has taken our squabbling, babbling European family three millenniums of wars, migrations, crusades, plague, pillage, partition, diets, dumas, duels, vendettas, incursions, invasions, intrusions, regimes, switching sides, and genocide to recognise the obvious fact that we are kin.

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FOR FUR

Saddam promotes hardliner to the defence ministry

By MICHAEL EVANS and HAZHIE TEIMOURIAN

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein has sacked his defence minister and replaced him with a younger man who commanded the Iraqi 3rd Corps in the war with Iran. The sudden change, the second in four weeks, reveals that senior military figures in Baghdad may increasingly be opposed to the president's policy on Kuwait.

The removal of General Abdul-Jaber Khalil Shanshal, aged 70, and the promotion of Major-General Saadi Tuma Abbas to the job of defence minister was announced by Baghdad Radio yesterday.

The timing of General Shanshal's dismissal, supposedly because of his age, less than five weeks before the United Nations Security Council's January 15 deadline for Iraq to quit Kuwait or face a military assault, was interpreted as a sign that President Saddam may not, after all, be ready to compromise.

The unexpected sacking of General Shanshal, who had been defence minister for 18 months, came after the removal last month of Lieutenant-General Nazir al-Khazraji, the Iraqi chief of staff. American officials said General Khazraji was apparently sacked for opposing the Kuwait strategy. He was reported to have been executed with seven other senior officers.

It emerged yesterday that an unnamed senior Iraqi air force commander had also been executed. He was arrested on Monday and shot by firing

squad on Tuesday, intelligence sources said. Although there has been no official confirmation, it is understood that the execution was ordered after a report appeared in Italian and Soviet papers that President Saddam keeps two fully fuelled aircraft at Baghdad airport to fly him and his family out of the city in the event of an allied attack.

The appointment of a new defence minister appeared to underline President Saddam's determination to have loyal and hardline officers around him in the final weeks before the UN deadline.

The state-run radio, quoting a presidential decree, said General Abbas was formerly the inspector-general of the armed forces and previously a deputy chief of staff. He is considered to be a supporter of President Saddam's hardline stance on Kuwait.

He devised the formidable defensive lines built to protect Basra from Iranian "human wave" assaults during the Gulf war. The Iraqis, who have an estimated 500,000 troops in Kuwait and southern Iraq, have built similar fortifications along the southern and coastal areas of Kuwait. General Abbas is reported to have been supervising their construction.

General Shanshal who was told of his dismissal in a letter from President Saddam, had been appointed after the death in a mysterious helicopter crash of the previous defence minister, General Adnan Khairallah, who had reputedly

earned President Saddam's displeasure in a family feud. General Khairallah was President Saddam's brother-in-law.

King warning: The allied forces in Saudi Arabia would launch "the most appalling attack" on the Iraqis if they did not leave Kuwait by January 15, Tom King, the defence secretary, said yesterday. A partial withdrawal would not do, he said.

Mr King said that President Saddam had to be told the straight truth when he met James Baker, the US Secretary of State, in Baghdad. If he still paid no attention to world opinion, his forces would face "extreme suffering".

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Mr King said: "Unless Saddam Hussein is mad, whatever he may say about not leaving, I think reality will break through. There are massive forces now gathering in Saudi Arabia. There will be a lot of suffering. Nobody wants to see that happen... There are no ifs or buts. He has to obey the UN resolution. You cannot defy the world in this way."

The decision to release all the hostages was the first sign that the Iraqi leader might be starting to heed world opinion, Mr King said, adding: "It is the first sign that he is beginning to realise just what the forces arrayed against him and the magnitude of taking on the totality of world opinion the way he has sought to do."

Letters, page 15



Close arrest: Israeli police detaining a Palestinian woman during a demonstration in Jerusalem yesterday

Girl shot dead in West Bank clash

From RICHARD OWEN in JERUSALEM

AS CONTROVERSY grew over new orders issued to Israeli troops for firing at stone throwers, a teenage Arab girl was shot dead near Nablus on the West Bank and Palestinian demonstrators stoned a military convoy taking Moshe Arens, the defence minister, through Jericho after a tour of inspection at the Allenby

bridge, the crossing point between Israel and Jordan. There were no injuries, and Mr Arens was unscathed. Two stone throwers were arrested. The new orders on opening fire authorise army commanders to post snipers at trouble spots in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to pinpoint stone throwers and disable

them by shooting them in the legs. Israeli civil rights activists described this as "monstrous" and accused the army of giving in to pressure for harsher measures from Jewish settlers.

General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, replied that the new orders were within the framework of existing rules

governing the use of weapons, which permit troops to open fire when their lives are threatened.

But the general admitted that the army was "stretching its interpretation of the law to the limit".

Arab stone throwers receive sentences ranging from six months to ten years. But army prosecutors want judges to impose the maximum allowable sentence of 20 years to deter stone throwing as the intifada, the Palestinian uprising, enters its fourth year.

General Shomron told the Knesset: "I hope that we shall succeed in deterring the stone throwers without the soldiers actually pursuing fleeing children and firing live ammunition."

The intifada leadership has threatened to increase the violence by urging Arab activists to use guns against Israelis rather than stones. However, stones remain the main weapon of the uprising.

In the incident near Nablus, a 16-year-old Palestinian girl was shot in the head during a clash with troops who were raiding the village of Bidya. She died on arrival in hospital.

In east Jerusalem, troops used tear gas to break up a march marking the founding of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by George Habbash, in 1967.

General Shomron said that, given the polarisation of Israeli opinion between left and right, it was becoming less easy for the army to chart a middle course in dealing with the Arab revolt.

Mr Arens said he believed that the use of guns, as well as stones, by Palestinian nationalists was an act of despair rather than a new phase in the intifada.

Baghdad 'hints at Kuwait pull-out'

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER in AMMAN

PRESIDENT Chadli Benjedid of Algeria arrived in Baghdad yesterday amid mixed signals about his chances of paving the way towards an Arab solution in the Gulf.

Asian diplomatic sources said his mediating mission coincided with the first public hint by President Saddam Hussein that he was prepared, under certain restricted circumstances, to contemplate withdrawing from Kuwait.

The sources said that among conditions which the Iraqi leader would insist on would be an endorsement by Washington of the need to hold an urgent international conference on the Palestinian and other Middle East problems, a guarantee of no demand for reparations, a new Kuwaiti government rather than restoration of the al-Sabah family, and negotiations on Iraq's territorial claims.

The sources said that the dramatic switch in the Iraqi leader's approach was first relayed in his talks in Baghdad this week with Ramesh Bhandari, a Non-Aligned Movement envoy sent by Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian prime minister.

It contrasted strongly with repeated bellicose denials by Latif Nassif al-Jassem, the Iraqi information minister, that Baghdad was willing to contemplate a withdrawal.

The point to understand in Arab disputes like this is that there are two sides to any negotiation. What is said to the outside world and what is relayed in private, a Western official said.

Many Arab officials believe that restoration of the oil-rich, and to date notably undemocratic al-Sabah, is the weakest element in United States demands. This week a leading Iranian paper, *Kayhan International*, also insisted that "under no circumstances" should they be permitted to return to power. Iraq is a possible stop-off point on President Chadli's mediating mission. In private, American officials have complained at the lack of effort by some members of the ruling family to try to recover their country.

However, President Chadli's initiative received a cool response, at least in public, from Saudi Arabia, supposedly his main stopping-off point after Iraq.

The Saudi Press Agency quoted an official as saying that no date had been fixed for the Algerian leader's visit, although he was twice visited in Algeria last week by Sheikh Ali bin Muslim, a senior envoy of King Fahd.

Diplomats in Riyadh said it was unlikely that the Saudis would refuse to see President Chadli. The coolness of their message was seen as pique that Algerian sources had leaked in advance an assurance that King Fahd had agreed to meet President Saddam after Iraq began withdrawing its forces from Kuwait.

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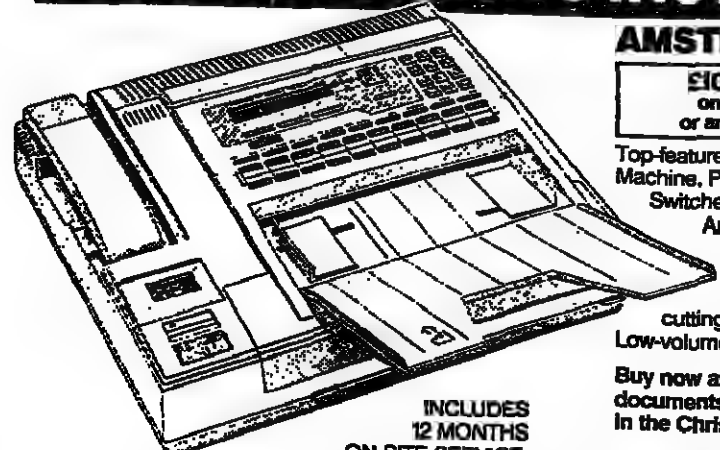
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Rancher admits Mendes killing

From REUTER in XAPURI, BRAZIL

THE Brazilian rancher Darci Alves da Silva, in an unexpected about-face, confessed in court yesterday to killing Chico Mendes, the rainforest activist, two years ago.

Senhor Alves da Silva, accused with his father Darly of the murder which drew worldwide attention to the destruction of the Amazon rainforest, had said they were innocent. But on taking the witness stand, Senhor Alves da Silva, changed his plea. "I killed Chico Mendes," he said, he had acted alone. "I fired one shot."

His voice betrayed no hint of emotion as he told the cramped courtroom in Xapuri of the night of December 22, 1988, when he crouched in Mendes' back yard, ambushing him as he emerged from his simple house and firing one bullet into his chest.

The Xapuri federal police chief, Romeu Tuma, told reporters Senhor Alves da Silva's confession could be a tactic to try to get his father, accused of ordering the murder, acquitted and he might also be trying to convince the court that no one else was involved in the crime.

Senhor Darci Alves da Silva turned himself over to police within days of the killing of Mendes and confessed to the murder. He later retracted his confession.

Foreign reporters and environmentalists packed

in to the 80-seat courtroom while townspeople stood outside in driving rain. White banners in the main square proclaimed "Justice to save Amazon".

Mendes was a local trade unionist, who led rubber tappers in their struggle against the encroachment of cattlemen into the great rainforest. His campaign made him enemies among the ranchers, and he predicted his death.

Security in Xapuri, in the western state of Acre, close to Bolivia, is intense. The tightest security has surrounded the main prosecution witness, Genesio da Silva, aged 15, who has lived in hiding since 1989. He used to live on Senhor Darly Alves da Silva's farm and is due to testify that he heard him plotting the murder.

Human rights activists said the trial of Senhor Alves da Silva on charges of ordering the murder was virtually unprecedented in Brazil. Moacyr Grechi, the Roman Catholic bishop in Rio Branco, the state capital, said that out of 1,200 rural murders in Brazil between 1964 and 1986, no one was tried for ordering a killing.

But those close to Mendes question whether the right man is in the dock. They say that Senhor Alves da Silva is a small fish in a large conspiracy that involved far more powerful people.

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Ershad taken from official residence to house arrest

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DHAKA

HUSSAIN Ershad, ousted as president of Bangladesh last week, was ordered out of his official residence inside a military garrison yesterday and placed under house arrest in a Dhaka mansion with his wife and five-year-old son.

The huge house, directly opposite the British High Commission in the diplomatic enclave of Gulshan, was surrounded by police who set up tents in the garden. The building was once the official residence of the British High Commissioner.

Mr Ershad, aged 60, his wife Raushan, aged 55, and their son Shad were escorted by police out of the garrison and driven in a long convoy of police vehicles to the house. Witnesses said that they looked distressed.

Opposition leaders have been demanding for days that Mr Ershad be ordered out of the official residence. Earlier yesterday, students held demonstrations demanding his

arrest, and gave a warning that a mass campaign would be relaunched within 24 hours unless he was charged.

The caretaker government, headed by Shahabuddin Ahmed, chief justice of the supreme court, did not say when Mr Ershad would be charged, although there were reports that he might be accused in the next few days of corruption, gold smuggling and misuse of state funds.

The powerful army is deeply unhappy with the prospect of a trial, since it would further sully its reputation and might embarrass other top-ranking soldiers suspected of corruption. The two main political parties, both staunchly anti-Ershad, privately favour sending the former general into exile abroad but are being forced by public opinion to back the demand for a trial.

Dhaka university students marched jubilantly through the capital last night after the government announced Mr Ershad's arrest. But they were unhappy that the deposed president, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1972, is being given VIP treatment. They said he should be put in the central jail. Many demanded that he should be hanged because of the deaths of student demonstrators in the past two months.

Mr Ershad was arrested under the Special Powers Act, which he had used to arrest demonstrators and to attempt to quell student unrest. He resigned last week after army generals withdrew their support because of fears that the country was running out of control after a seven-week student-led uprising. Since resigning, Mr Ershad has been under protective custody in the Dhaka cantonment. Students yesterday threatened to storm it if he was not evicted.

Former ministers in Mr Ershad's administration have gone underground because of an intensive drive against Ershad allies by the caretaker government. Mahmudul Hasan, the former home minister, is under house arrest and senior Ershad appointees in the civil service have been dismissed or transferred. A senior police official said he had received orders to arrest former cabinet ministers, but so far only Mr Hasan had been "traced". Political leaders made a lengthy list of people who should be tried for corruption and other alleged offences.

The government's cautious moves against Mr Ershad reflect its nervousness at upsetting the army, which has been in charge directly or indirectly for 15 of Bangladesh's 19 years as an independent country. But there are no indications that the military wants to stage a coup.

The exact election date has yet to be announced because the Ershad-appointed election committee is being reconstituted. The Awami League, headed by Sheikh Hasina Wazed, is widely regarded as the most likely winner.

\$1m bounty renewed for Rushdie

Nicosia — An Iranian charity organization repeated its \$1 million (£515,000) offer for the head of Salman Rushdie, the British author, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

The 15th of Khordad Foundation, which offered the reward soon after the late Ayatollah Khomeini called for Mr Rushdie's head in 1988, said that its bounty was still available. Khomeini alleged that Mr Rushdie, who went into hiding, had defamed Islam in his novel, *The Satanic Verses*. (AP)

Reporter freed

Medellin — Colombian cocaine barons freed Hero Buss, a German journalist, after he spent more than three months in captivity. (Reuters)

Whales drown

Nyannis Port, Massachusetts — Some 45 stranded pilot whales which beached on a nearby island were either drowning as the tide rose or were being given a lethal injection by would-be rescuers who wanted to end their suffering. (AFP)

Fatal jump

Auckland — Jason John Collett, aged 19, who was in charge of an amusement park bungee jump in New Zealand that caused the death of a man, was sentenced to 200 hours' community service after being convicted of manslaughter. (AP)

Woman governor

Wellington — The former mayor of Auckland, Dame Cath Tizard, aged 59, was sworn in as the first woman governor-general of New Zealand. (Reuters)

Attack on Seoul superpower links

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SEOUL

NORTH Korea said yesterday that peace on the bitterly divided Korean peninsula had to be achieved without interference from outsiders, pointing indirectly to South Korea's links with the United States and the Soviet Union.

"We only wonder when this dependence on outside forces and flunkiest way of thinking, impairing national dignity and in-will disappear," said Yon Hyong Muk, the North Korean prime minister. "If we depend upon foreign forces, we cannot but be subjected to their interference, cannot but be worried about their attitude," he declared.

Mr Yon's comments came at the opening of the third round of talks since September between the prime ministers of the two Koreas on easing the political and military tensions which divide them.

The opening-day session lasted about two hours.

President Roh of South Korea flies to Moscow today for a meeting with President Gorbachev. The Soviet Union, a long-time ally of the communist North, established diplomatic relations with Seoul two months ago and Mr Roh's trip has been bitterly criticized by the

North as an attempt to sabotage the talks between Seoul and Pyongyang. No immediate agreement is expected, but the talks are seen as one more step in the lengthy process of drawing the two nations closer. "The talks showed how big and wide are the valleys of distrust between the two sides," said Limb Dong Won, a spokesman for the South Korean delegation.

Mr Yon, in turn, reiterated a demand for the immediate withdrawal of 43,000 American troops based in South Korea, the withdrawal of the nuclear weapons which, he claims, Washington is storing in the South, and a halt to the annual US-South Korean military manoeuvres, called Team Spirit.

He called for direct talks between North Korea and Washington on replacing the 1953 armistice agreement which ended the three-year Korean War with a peace treaty. South Korea refused to sign the armistice.

The North Koreans also demanded that the South cease efforts to join the United Nations unless it agrees to share a seat with the North and that it release dissidents who have been jailed for contacts with North Koreans.



Side by side: Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, addressing a rally in Tokoza yesterday, as Adrian Vlok, the law and order minister, listens intently

Zulus force Mandela to retreat from township

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela, yesterday visiting some of the Johannesburg black township areas worst affected by recent faction violence, was confronted by a mob of angry Zulus who swore at him, attacked an African National Congress car and forced his peace mission of political and church leaders to retreat in dismay.

The incident occurred as the delegation, led by the ANC's deputy president, approached a workers' hostel in Tokoza, where more than 80 people have been killed this week in clashes between Zulu members of the Inkatha Freedom Party and Xhosa residents who broadly support the ANC. About a hundred Zulu men and women, some brandishing crude weapons and placards, chanted "Away, get out Mandela".

An armed riot police converged on the scene, a screaming woman struck a car flying an ANC flag with a metal pipe. Mr Mandela, visibly shaken, was hustled away by aides.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, on a separate tour of the township, blamed the ANC for the continuing strife. Addressing about 2,000 armed supporters he claimed that the ANC had provoked the violence by waging a campaign against the KwaZulu tribal homeland, of

which he is chief minister.

The nature of the visits highlighted the antagonism between the two leaders and their political manoeuvring. Chief Buthelezi, after saying he could not join the church mission, because of other commitments, surprised observers by turning up with Adrian Vlok, the law and order minister.

ANC opposition to direct talks between Mr Mandela and Chief Buthelezi, and the latter's refusal to attend large peace forums, have compromised their respective calls for an end to the violence. The ANC said yesterday that there were no plans for the two to meet before the new year.

Of more immediate concern to ANC activists is the return from 30 years' exile of Oliver Tambo, their ailing president, who is expected to be given a hero's welcome when he arrives in South Africa today. Mr Tambo, aged 73, who is recovering from a stroke, will address the opening session of a crucial ANC conference near Johannesburg tomorrow, which will debate strategy for forthcoming negotiations with the government on constitutional reforms.

ANC officials had planned to mobilise tens of thousands of supporters at Jan Smuts international airport, but the

government has asked them for security reasons to restrict the welcoming party to 60. Mr Tambo, who has been partially paralysed by his illness, is expected to spend three weeks in South Africa before returning to London for more treatment.

He will be given a standing ovation by more than 1,500 delegates to the consultative conference, the first of its kind in South Africa since the ANC was banned in 1959, but unity on political issues is less likely. After almost a year of political freedom, the organisation has failed to attract the mass support it expected and is riven by internal divisions on how to respond to the government's reform initiatives.

While Mr Mandela's continued leadership is assured, there is growing disaffection among exiles and militant young people demanding mass protest action to galvanise support and hasten the transfer of power to the black majority.

The ANC had originally intended to hold a national conference which would have reshuffled the leadership, but this has been postponed until next June on the ground that many members are still in prison or in exile.

Leading article, page 15

DON'T FORGET THE LAST POSTING DATES.



2ND CLASS
17TH DECEMBER.

1ST CLASS
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Royal Mail

هكذا من الأهل

Strains in the Euro axis

Douglas Johnson

Once again France and Germany seem to have set the pace for Europe. Before any important European summit, President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl issue a premonitory statement by which they expect to dominate the conference. True to form, the two leaders have already produced a joint letter to preface the intergovernmental conference in Rome this week.

From de Gaulle's first meeting with Adenauer at Colombey-les-Deux-Églises in September 1958 to his last conversation on international affairs, also at Colombey, shortly before his death in November 1970, the Franco-German alliance was the basis of his European policy, and it has continued to be a dominant force in the European Community.

But can this alliance survive German reunification and the progressive disintegration of the Soviet Union? Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the French defence minister, remarked that when the Berlin Wall collapsed, there was only one casualty: the president of the European Commission, Jacques Delors. His vision of the Community as a tightly-knit economic and political unit became impossible once it was clear that within the Community, one state—Germany—would have a wholly disproportionate power. Nor was the German past forgotten.

The first anniversary of the destruction of the Berlin Wall on November 9 this year was celebrated so discreetly in Germany, some French said, because it was also the anniversary of the *Kristallnacht* anti-Jewish pogrom in 1938. The French Communists described West Germany's takeover of the East as an *Anschluss*, and a French cartoonist showed Mr Kohl unable to get out of the lift at a summit conference because he had grown so big.

The Germans had reservations too. Chancellor Kohl, seizing the opportunity, launched into a skilful and independent policy in order to promote unity. He ignored half-hearted French attempts to favour his rivals, the Social Democrats, and his triumph was seen as giving a lesson to the egoism of French politics.

Officially, however, the special relationship has continued. On December 6, Kohl and Mitterrand sent their joint letter to the president of the Community, proposing the establishment of common European foreign and defence policies. Such an aim, they believe, should be part of a new treaty. However, much in the letter remains vague.

According to rumour, the two leaders had difficulties in reaching agreement. Germany is anxious to affirm its democratic credibility and to exploit its demographic power. Therefore it wants more accountability and wants the European Parliament to be more powerful. The French prefer to have meetings (as *salles* is the term used) of representatives of both

national parliaments and the European Parliament, as Mitterrand proposed in October 1989 and as took place in Rome last month. Such an assembly is purely consultative. With regard to the executive, the French favour the idea of a *troika* comprising the past president of the Community, the current president and the next president, heading a secretariat that would have special responsibilities and powers.

The Germans, who have the most powerful currency, wish the mark to be protected against profligate spenders, and want the Community to control national budgets. The French want to preserve greater freedom, so that their government can meet its social obligations—for instance in education—which have increased as the result of recent tensions.

In matters of defence, the Germans retain a certain Atlantic outlook, which the French are reluctant to share. The Germans are natural regionalists. For many Frenchmen regionalism spells the end of the French state—that is to say, the end of France.

But the greatest immediate difficulty is political. In France, divided political parties look helplessly and pessimistically towards an all-powerful president who is in total control of foreign policy. He is often aloof, frequently enigmatic and, some claim, hesitant. He appears as an arbitrator rather than a leader, prudent rather than decisive.

In Germany, a triumphant coalition prepares not only to deal with the problems of the east and the threat of massive immigration (for which it expects the assistance of the Community), but also to seize the opportunities of expansion—sometimes at the expense of its Community partners. The latest example is Volkswagen's merger with Skoda of Czechoslovakia, which is a defeat for Renault of France. Renault was only tardily—and, it is said, inadequately—supported by its government. This episode seems to confirm the frequent criticism that French leaders fail to anticipate events.

In Germany there is a sense of movement and expectation, even though the gloomy forecasts with which the Social Democrats fought the election may turn out to contain some truth. In France there is uncertainty. Last week Jacques Chirac's neo-Gaullists declared their opposition to further European integration unless it is approved by referendum and controlled by the *Congrès d'États*. Others, among the socialists and Giscard d'Estaing's centrists, want France to move more wholeheartedly into its friendship with Germany and its European identity. Germany has achieved unity. France is witnessing the end of consensus.

The author is emeritus professor of French history at University College London.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

After an investiture, "What did she say?" is the most common question asked of participants. The most common answers tend to be some way from the truth: "She said she wished it could have been a baronetcy—but the prime minister has abolished them," I told enquirers. Also: "She told me to be sure to let her know if she could be of help finding me another job."

Show us the gown then, they said, and I opened the box and let them inspect the gold and red medalion hooked onto its wide scarlet and yellow ribbon—long enough to put it *in situ* over a top hat. Three and a bit years after the event it occurs to me that there was something really useful that Her Majesty might have said.

Last week the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor held a reception at St James's Palace in the gracious presence of Her Majesty the Queen. "Neck badges will be worn," it said on the invite; it was my first time. I took the thing from its box in my dressing room, slipped it over my head and heard a subdued clunk as it made contact with my perennials waistcoat button. I have been a member of the society since 1987. Among the flow of letters of congratulation on my honour—which started to arrive before the flow of letters expressing regret at the loss of my parliamentary seat had stopped—was one from its clerk. He welcomed me. He went on to state that knights-hoods are the oldest rank and dignity known to Christian civilisation and he enclosed a banker's order.

"Not much point being a knight if one doesn't join the Imperial Society," I said to the newly ennobled Lady F. She thought perhaps there would be more in it for her than being an MP's wife—for whom the only bounty is a room off the Commons' central lobby where spouses can change from what they wear at home to clothes to be worn in the Palace of Westminster: women would arrive in startling designer gowns and leave the "family room" in dull, dark, dowdy dresses. We got to the Palace at 6pm

like it said we should. There was a queue. We joined it, shuffled down a corridor nodding to those similarly decorated. A man came and said: "I am the registrar." I shook his hand, asked if I might pre-register my death there and then, to avoid another queue later on. "Registrar of the society," he explained; as he was limping noticeably I agreed when he asked me to move aside while he made a run down the inside rail. He passed; others followed; we joined them. "Are you with this party?" asked a belligerent lady as we passed her in the registrar's slipstream. (I stopped calling females ladies after a reader wrote that they were all women. This one was a Lady.)

I had rather thought that the queue was for wine. It was for a trick where four women sat behind boxes bearing guests' name-tags. As no one knew which of the quartet was in charge of what letters, progress was slow. Palaces do not go in for notices like A-D, E-K, etc. Here is how the party works: there is a huge room, possibly several rooms opening one into another. The 360 guests are divided into groups of 30 each with a council member as shepherd and an oval table as home base. The shepherd decides which of his flock are to be presented and arranges them to form part of the front row of a hollow square. First there was champagne, also canapés of the kind served in American bars under an "eat as much as you like" notice: small puff pastries cases filled with minced polystyrene; a slice of raw carrot mounted by an unhappy prawn. Nothing to get the chaps excited.

At about 6.40 there was a hush. She had arrived; drink was now harder to find and among those in the front row one observed a modicum of curtesy practice as She made her way around her people. Then it was our moment. Lady F. curtsied; I bowed, and because she exudes such dazzling charm I did not ask, as I had intended, why she had not advised me to buy a thinner, shorter, shinier ribbon for my medal and wear it tucked under the chin as do all her other knights.

Marion Shoard weighs up the choices forced by the vote for a deer-hunting ban

Trust at bay as townsmen close in

Today the 52 members of the council of the National Trust must take one of the most important decisions in the organisation's 95-year history: what to do about last month's vote by Trust members for a ban on the hunting of deer with hounds on the Trust's land. If the council imposes such a ban, which would cripple the sport in its West Country stronghold, the rural establishment will be outraged. To defy the members' vote could trigger a revolt and mass resignations. Either way, the Trust—Britain's largest landowner after the state and the crown—will be placed in the forefront of the growing struggle for control of our changing countryside.

Today's hard choice has not come about by chance. As a statutory body laden with tax and legal privileges, and also Britain's largest voluntary organisation, the Trust has always played an ambiguous role in our national life. Over the years, those who run it have chosen to throw its weight firmly behind the traditional rural order, arguing that the interests of conservation will best be served by "good neighbourly" relations with other landowners.

This approach has undoubtedly benefited established rural interests. Some aristocratic families manage to remain in largely undisturbed occupation of their stately homes only because the Trust foots the repair bills. Trust tenants are not even required to permit public access to much of the magnificent countryside which has supposedly been acquired on behalf of the nation.

Such practices have won for the Trust the understanding and support of the rural establishment. But in a less deferential and increasingly democratic Britain, they were bound to be questioned sooner or later. The urban majority to whom the Trust is ultimately responsible strongly disapproves of some country practices. In the past, the Trust's half-appointed, half-elected council could afford to ignore these views, but recent efforts to strengthen the organisation's finances have brought the council into fierce collision with the people in whose name it supposedly acts.

During the 1970s and '80s, the Trust embarked on a hugely successful recruitment drive, which has given it nearly two million paid-up members. Many joined

simply for the discounts on entry charges to Trust properties that have been turned into tourist attractions (drawing 10 million visitors a year). But all members have the right to vote on Trust policy, and though such votes are not constitutionally binding on the council, in a democratic age they inevitably carry immense weight.

Hunting was always the likeliest flashpoint. Recent opinion polls suggest that around 70 per cent of adults think all hunting should be banned. Some members proposed a complete ban on hunting on Trust property in 1988, but on the urgent advice of the council, their resolution was defeated. So (although much more narrowly) was a similar resolution last month. However, the gentle and appealing red deer evokes even more feeling among townspeople than the fox, hare or mink. A separate resolution calling for a ban on deer hunting alone was passed by 68,679 votes to 63,985. Although this vote involved only 6.5 per cent of the Trust's members, the council cannot lightly disregard it.

Already the council faces allegations of high-handedness in the way it runs the Trust. Earlier this year Rodney Legg, the chairman of

the Open Spaces Society, called the Trust an elitist club, as he began a campaign for more public access to Trust land. Mr Legg has now demanded a complete restructuring of the Trust, putting full control in the hands of the members. If the council flouts the clearly expressed will of the membership over such an emotive issue as deer hunting, it will play into the hands of all those seeking to democratise the Trust. If instead it gives in, members will feel encouraged to submit further resolutions aimed at promoting change in the rural regime. Either way, Trust land could eventually be used as a means of undermining all those country practices, ranging from fox-hunting to chemical farming, to which townspeople take exception.

Few of the present members of the council will want to see the Trust changed in this way, by either route. But what can they do? Their options are limited.

They can refuse to implement a ban and try to justify this course to Trust members. They could easily demonstrate that a ban would alienate landowners. Much of the land on Exmoor which would be affected by a deer-hunting ban was

donated to the Trust in 1944 by Sir Richard Acland. Before he died three weeks ago, he threatened to take legal action to prevent any ban being applied to his former holding. But Trust members incensed by the suffering of the deer are unlikely to be moved by the prospective wrath of the animals' persecutors.

Alternatively, the council can implement the ban and try to persuade landowners to accept it. That, however, will not be easy. Already the joint master of the Quantock Staghounds is threatening to shoot his 70 hounds in front of the press if the ban goes ahead. In such a climate, landowners may well consider the implementation of a ban an unforgivable betrayal.

Some members of the council may try to put off a decision by setting up a working party to find out more facts, even though the facts are all too clear to everyone. The council would perhaps be wiser to grasp the nettle now and impose the ban. But whichever course is chosen, the National Trust is henceforth likely to play a much more assertive role in the life of our countryside.

Ashes to ashes and bodies to body bags: by order

Bernard Levin marvels at the creation of a special force of garbage police in a city where murders steadily soar

If you want a comprehensive definition of the way the world is going, together with accurate readings of its speed, you may find it in New York. From which so many notable innovations have emerged. It comes in two parts, and I must stress that the picture is not complete without both.

There, the number of murders since the beginning of the year has just passed 2,000; the figure constitutes a "first" for the city, and in view of the fact that 1990 has some days to run, it is clear that 1991 will have to look to its laurels if it is to have a chance of breaking the newly-established record. Stand by, as the chimneys of the new year prepare to sound, for a cascade of corpses, generously provided by citizens of New York who understandably want their city to hold the proud standard high.

Well done, Big Apple! But I promised you a vivid glimpse of the future, and made clear that the widespread incidence of insomnia in New York, caused by the nightlong rattle of musketry and screams as the neighbours are being shot or stabbed, cannot alone be sure to typify what is coming. Here, then, is Part Two.

The mayor, presumably raising his voice to be heard above the gunfire and bleeding, recently announced that 83 more policemen have been deployed across the city; most of its citizens, it is true, would have thought the number insufficient for their protection by at least a couple of noughts, but no doubt the more sanguine New Yorkers agreed that it was a start. The next news, though, would have startled even the most laid-back: the additional squad is not to be a back-up for the homicide division, nor even for the burglary watch. The sole job of its members is to inspect the city's dustbins to see whether the newly-promulgated decrees requiring every citizen to sort his or her rubbish into separate piles, according to its nature, are being observed. If they are not, a fine of \$30

looms, a sum that will grow steeply for unrepentant scofflaws who thumb (or, I suppose, hold) their noses at the new laws, until the officer whose duty it is to demand and enforce the fine announces that it has reached \$20,000—long before which point, I imagine, it must be cheaper and easier to murder the policeman.

Some of the garbage police (officially the Sanitation Department's Enforcement Task Force) have been talking to *The Sunday Times*, and mucky talk it must have been.

...the foul stench of stale spaghetti sauce, rotten eggs and other odorous form of waste can be overpowering... as they travel through bags of four, smelling, rotten food and disposable nappies, the officers hope to find an envelope addressed to the offending citizens so that they can charge them... "Sometimes it can be difficult to pinpoint exactly whose garbage is whose... But we try to be as fair as we can, especially if it seems to be a genuine mistake that people have thrown out newspapers or something with their regular trash"... Money for the programme has run out... As a result, the newspapers and tins that have been collected now languish in warehouses all over the city...

In New York City, in every span of 48 hours, 11 people are murdered. And all day and much of the night, while the death-count mounts, 83 trained policemen, all armed and fully expert in the pursuit of criminals, are spending their entire time on the beat, by order of the city, searching through the city's dustbins not for spent bullets, bloodstained knives and half-empty vials of poison, but to bring to book those careless citizens who do not with sufficient diligence sort out their domestic rubbish into separate containers (kindly supplied by the city), viz., paper, cardboard, tins and bottles, under penalty of law.

Have I not summed up our world and the way it is going? New



York is a bankrupt city with a murder-rate of 2,000 a year and a mayor without a thought in his head, yet its police force must spare 83 officers to poke their noses, literally, into the city's rubbish, and fine the rubbish-creators if they leave *The New York Times* in the receptacle dedicated to used Coca-Cola tins, or vice versa.

You will not need a member of the New York Sanitation Department's Enforcement Task Force to sniff out what lies at the bottom of this lunacy. It is, of course, the

fashion of the day. The new brand of confidence tricksters, who would never do anything as improper as selling Brooklyn Bridge to an out-of-town innocent, think it is very proper indeed to sell the decaying city their fashionable green all-natural, for all that these are every bit as fraudulent as the certificate of sale that the thimble-rigger of yore used to hand over when the Brooklyn Bridge transaction was complete.

The poor, muddled, well-meaning, hapless, dazed mayor, approached (or perhaps threatened)

by the fanatics in Kensal Green, has been persuaded to promulgate the Rubbish Decree, though anyone of any sense at all, if there is such a figure left in New York, could have told him that the imposed ban was not only useless for its presumed purpose, but would be ignored throughout the city before a month had passed, or even sooner—if only because the faddists can do new nostrums as fast as a dustbin-lid can be raised.

The joy I felt at seeing the Green party get so notable a drubbing in the recent German elections can hardly be expressed in words, and I hope—oh, how fervently I hope—that this wonderful sign of the world coming to its senses is only the harbinger of a tide (can a tide have harbingers? probably not, but I can't stop for a couple of mixed metaphors) that will sweep the world clear of the whole business; indeed, I now promise that I will publicly eat an entire dolphin without salt, when the last Green is stuffed with broccoli, spinach, lettuce and dandelion-leaves, and boiled in a very large bio-degradable iron cauldron, not that anyone would notice a difference in the nonsense he would be spouting, boiled or raw.

The only source of which the Greens can boast is their ability to set back the important and serious work of ecological conservation, to which their monkeyshines contribute nothing but obstruction, partly because of their fanaticism and partly because the nonsense they talk tars the real thing with their useless brush. And so craven are the New York authorities in the face of the bullying and swaggering of these people that as the city moves towards a murder-rate of five corpses a day, they hire 83 more policemen (whom in any case they cannot pay) to ensure that such few citizens as survive shall be prosecuted for not distinguishing a bottle from a tin can and a pile of newspapers from a heap of chicken-bones.

Incidentally, into which city-provided receptacle (they can't pay the bill for them, either) do you suppose that a dead body should be put, and are there different bins according to whether the body was murdered, died of old age, or succumbed to a self-seit of green propaganda?

Listeners and auditors

To the barely concealed anger of BBC management, the National Audit Office has launched an investigation into whether the World Service gives value for money. Staff at Bush House fear the audit could lead to cuts in funding.

Despite efforts by John Tusa, the managing director, to keep out the public spending watchdog—on the grounds that managerial autonomy is enshrined in the Corporation's charter—audit office staff are ensconced in Bush House at the start of an enquiry expected to last a year. The results will be presented to the Commons public accounts committee.

Officially, the World Service describes the auditors as "welcome guests". A spokesman says: "The initial view was that as part of the BBC we were excluded from the National Audit Act, but we are now cooperating fully with their enquiry." Unofficially the anger at the first investigation of its kind in the service's 58-year history is almost tangible. One senior manager says: "John Tusa told them no. He was worried that it would send the wrong signal to the rest of the world, and he fears it may be construed as an erosion of our independence. But he had to concede that ultimately the World Service is accountable to Parliament. If we had continued to resist, something might have happened to hide."

But with the Comptroller and Auditor General, John Bourn, now sitting in on daily editorial

meetings, fears persist that the service is being compromised.

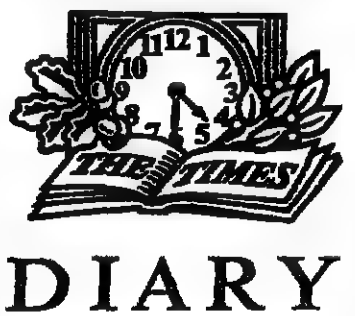
Given its substantial Foreign Office funding—which will increase next year to £159.5 million—other observers are astonished that the World Service has escaped external scrutiny for so long. If the report is critical, World Service could find an unlikely ally. The farewell present from Downing Street staff to Mrs Thatcher was a shortwave radio that will enable her to tune in to Bush House wherever her new role as a world stateswoman may take her.

From the *Fenlands* comes the first issue of the Cambridge Alumni Magazine, launched by the university to promote fundraising. Its editor is Jonathan Gregson, educated at Pembroke College—Oxford.

Price on his head

Tory MPs in Cambridgeshire are starting to count the cost of John Major's decision to spurn the splendour of Chequers in favour of weekends at his Huntingdon home. If Major went to Chequers, a government-owned property, the policing and security costs would be picked up by the Home Office, but while he is at his private residence, the cost of the round-the-clock Special Branch guard—estimated at £1.5 million a year—falls upon Cambridgeshire county council.

So concerned are local MPs that one of them, Sir Anthony Grant, has been to see Kenneth Baker, the new Home Secretary, in an attempt to persuade the government to foot at least part of the bill.



Grant, a former party deputy chairman who was one of the first to spot Major's potential in the mid-1970s, said yesterday: "I told Kenneth Baker we are immensely proud to have the prime minister staying in Cambridgeshire with his wife and children at weekends, but it is unfair that the burden should fall on local people alone."

With poll tax bills in Huntingdon a relatively modest £305, the prospect of an increase because of prime ministerial policing costs can only add further urgency to Michael Heseltine's review of local government funding.

That's no Lady...

Etiquette fanatics are continuing to puzzle over Margaret Thatcher. She has firmly said that she wishes to be called plain Mrs, however inconsistent this may seem with her husband's acceptance of a hereditary baronetcy. But what should *The Times* make of her insistence that her courtesy title should never be used, even in Court circular references? Her office is adamantly at

variance with etiquette. "Sir Denis and Mrs Thatcher" it must be under all circumstances, staff insist. Nobody seems clear whether this is meant to break new ground in titular separation of the sexes, or more characteristically to cock a snook at a corner of the establishment (in which case, why the baronetcy?).

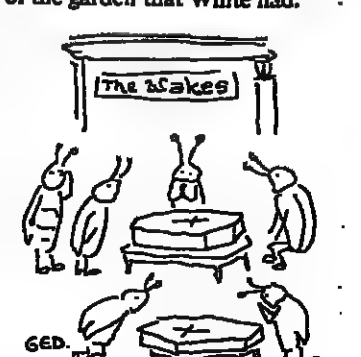
Charles Kidd, editor of *Debut*, says: "It would be most irregular if she remains plain Mrs in her social life. I would not like to see Court reports in *The Times* or anywhere else referring to Sir Denis and Mrs Thatcher. The wife of the baronet is a Lady, whatever she may say, and I would be dumbfounded if she continues to insist on calling herself Mrs. She will get used to the new title."

Until she does, however, *The Times* will maintain its policy of permitting people to be called by whatever title they choose—within reason. Which covers Mrs Thatcher. Just.

White house blues

Two centuries after the death of Gilbert White, Britain's first ecologist, the insect life close to him has been studied and returned to haunt his memory. His home in Selborne, Hampshire, now a museum, has been ravaged by deathwatch beetle. More than £80,000 is needed to carry out urgent repairs to *The Wakes*, the Grade I listed house where White wrote his *Natural History of Selborne*. The stairs and the beams supporting the upstairs parlour where White died are in a dangerous state. Lord Selborne, one of the trustees, says: "Visitors come from all over the world but

we have never been able to show more than a part of the house. We have opened a fund for the work to be carried out, and so enable visitors to enjoy the upstairs view of the garden that White had."



Francesca Greenwood, the *Times* gardening correspondent and editor of *White's Journals*, wishes the fund success. But she adds: "White used to get up before dawn to observe the cockroaches at the back of the oven in the kitchen. If he were alive today he would not be killing the deathwatch beetle. He would be terribly excited about studying them."

Driving home late on Monday after the Commons debate on random breath-testing, Tory MP Gerald Howarth was stopped in Knightsbridge and subjected to a test which the officiating constables described as "routine" and which proved negative. Howarth told them he had just been debating whether the police should be given extra powers to stop motorists on a random basis. "Don't waste your time," was the reply. "We do it already."



Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (877) 727 5246.

Sail around the world by computer

Super
TVs go
on sale

The latest sets
cost £15,000

Electronic charts linked to satellite navigation systems could soon guide ships at sea. Chris Partridge looks at Britain's role in the latest developments

Navigation has changed little since the days of Captain Cook. Seamen still draw lines on paper charts to tell the helmsman what course to steer. The electronic devices available are rarely linked together into a comprehensive system. For years, navigators have dreamed about using charts on computer screens. Satellite-positioning systems would locate the ship's position on the screen, and the computer would make all the complex spherical calculations needed to take it around the globe.

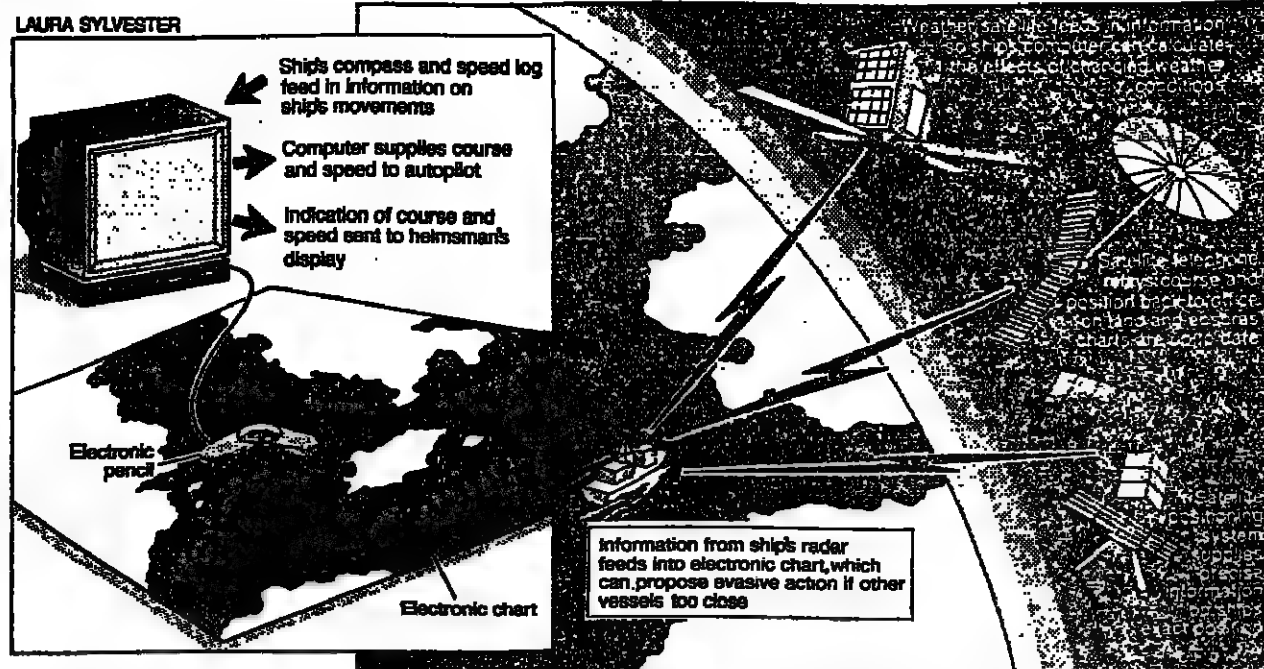
Tide tables could be stored in the computer's memory so that it could make corrections for tidal currents. Eventually the computer could take information from meteorological satellites to calculate the effects of weather changes. Information from the ship's radar could be entered on the electronic chart, allowing the navigation system to alert the crew if other vessels appear to be on a collision course.

The electronic chart would make things easier and clearer for the navigator, too. All

stretches of water shallower than the ship's draught could be coloured red to show no-go areas that could be adjusted to compensate for the state of the tides. Narrow sea lanes or particular danger points, such as wrecks, could be highlighted. The scale of the chart could be varied, from route planner size to those showing individual harbours with every detail, even the ship's outline, to ensure enough room for manoeuvre.

An electronic chart's greatest advantage would be its ability to update charts by sending data via the satellite-telephone system. This would ensure that charts were always up to date and would eliminate the need for a worldwide network of chart offices.

So why is everyone sticking with old-fashioned paper? Oyvind Stene, the director of the Norwegian hydrographic service, believes adoption of electronic charts is inevitable. Norway was the main sponsor of an experimental electronic chart system covering the North Sea, used by a specially equipped vessel. The experiment was mostly successful,



but it covered only a few ports and the routes between them. Later this year, a digital chart of the whole North Sea is to be started, based on standards developed in Norway and stored on optical disc.

Mr Stene, however, sees problems that must be overcome before electronic charts can be used. The first is reliability. "Electronic charts can break down, so paper charts are needed as a backup," he says. The cost of electronic charts will be high, making them

unattractive except for the biggest vessels. Mr Stene admits, and the lack of standardisation of colours and symbols could be dangerous if navigators are unfamiliar with the electronic system. The resolution of even the best computer screens is not comparable with that of a paper chart.

The main problem is that the largest publishers of charts, the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union, have not agreed on standards and are nowhere near implementing plans to publish

reaches the exact position, all the lights go out.

Hugh Agnew, the chairman of Qubit, says the system removes the strain from the navigator of entering long numbers into the system. "A Brazilian airliner once flew hundreds of miles 180 degrees off course because the navigator entered the wrong numbers in the computer," he says.

The system performs the complex calculations needed in navigation, releasing the navigator for jobs such as keeping watch for flares, and it is a safety system: it can be programmed to sound an alarm if it is not moved within a certain time, making it the equivalent of the dead man's handle in a train and a black box course recorder on an aircraft.

However, the greatest potential may be in linking electronic navigation systems that cannot talk to each other, such as the radar, satellite-positioning systems and meteorological satellite information. All this information can be combined in the computer to provide automatic corrections.

One feature that navigators appreciate is that the movements of the electronic pencil can be recorded by marking the chart with a real pencil as the course is laid out. If the power fails, the ship easily follows the course in the traditional manner: just as Captain Cook's would have.

Search for the clean car engine

The first official British study to measure atmospheric levels of hydrogen gas is being launched by scientists attempting to understand the way vehicle exhaust emissions interact with sunlight to pollute the air.

The study, funded by the environment department, could lead to a redesign of car engines so that important exhaust wastes are burnt more thoroughly. It could also throw light on an emerging threat to polar ozone layers from hydrogen gas which, some scientists believe, should be addressed with a seriousness traditionally reserved for vapours such as aerosols and refrigerant fluids.

Vehicle exhausts emit a proportion of unburnt fuel and hydrocarbons which, in sunlight, are broken down into a variety of gases, including peroxyacetylnitrate (PAN), ozone and hydrogen. PAN and ozone can damage crops and harm humans, causing eye irritations and other maladies.

British scientists are to analyse vehicle exhaust gases to cut air pollution

Computer models which predict these levels of pollution have been devised, but these need to be verified by physical measurements of hydrogen gas to prove their accuracy, says Brian Jones, who is heading the research at AEA Technology at Harwell, Oxfordshire.

More than 20 unburnt hydrocarbons, including ethylene, have been identified in exhausts and incorporated into the model. By measuring the hydrogen levels, researchers may be able to predict which of the hydrocarbons are the main culprits of pollution. This would allow engine designers to produce power units which burn these chemicals more efficiently.

"If we know the ones which are the

most polluting, we could take steps to reduce those from exhausts," Dr Jones says.

The spin-off of the research could have implications for environmental scientists trying to account for the seasonal holes in the ozone layer above the poles. A team of American scientists are claiming to have detected a rise in atmospheric hydrogen gas from 200 parts per billion before the industrial revolution to 500 parts per billion today.

The team, from the Oregon Graduate Institute in Beaverton, argues that accumulating hydrogen in the lower atmosphere may leak into the stratosphere, forming water vapour, which could increase cloud cover over the planet's coldest regions and speed up the destruction of ozone molecules. The British study will add more data on atmospheric hydrogen levels, which may help confirm the increase.

NICK NUTTALL



Combating pollution: redesigned car engines would burn waste gases more thoroughly

Next year, NHK plans to use a satellite to broadcast eight hours of HDTV a day. Within five years, the manufacturers say, the price should fall below £4,000 and more than a million sets could be sold in Japan.

HDTV sets display rectangular rather than the almost square pictures of current sets and use twice the number of video lines to provide increased clarity.

The makers hope the improved quality will encourage consumers to pay more for their sets over the next decade.

In Britain, viewers are unlikely to see HDTV broadcasts until the mid Nineties when European companies hope to have established a version that will be compatible with existing television sets.

MATTHEW MAY

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Building Research Establishment

ENERGY, BUILDINGS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

RD&D Opportunities at Garston, Hertfordshire

The Building Research Establishment is the leading national centre for research into the impact of buildings on the environment. Energy use in buildings accounts for half the CO₂ production of the UK and one of BRE's major programmes aims to improve the energy efficiency of buildings through demonstration of new technologies and promotion of good practice. The work involves close collaboration with industry.

BRE is looking for well motivated people with good interpersonal qualities; sound judgement and appropriate qualifications to join an established team working in the following areas:

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Relocation assistance may be given. For further details and an application form, please write to Mrs G Bright, Building Research Establishment, Garston, Watford, Herts WD2 7JR, or phone 0923 664745. Forms should be returned by 28 December 1990. Please quote reference S90/654 (BRE).



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Quaking before the Big One

The shock that hit San Francisco in 1989 had been predicted a year earlier. Henry Gee asks just how accurate the forecasting can be

Californians are used to earthquakes, but the one that struck San Francisco in the evening rush hour of October 17, 1989, was the biggest in the area since 1906. Just 12 hours later, scientists at the United States Geological Observatory said they had given warning in a report a year earlier that there could be an earthquake.

They claimed the report said there was a 20 per cent probability of an earthquake of magnitude 7 hitting the San Francisco peninsula within 30 years. But an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 in the Santa Cruz Mountains, southeast of the city, was thought to be more likely, at 30 per cent, for the same period. The 1989 earthquake, of 7.1 magnitude, was in this area.

In 1984, Dr Lynn Sykes, of the Lamont Doherty Geological Observatory and Columbia University, said the section of the San Andreas fault southeast of San Francisco merited special attention, forecasting that an earthquake of magnitude 7 was likely in the next 30 years.

Dr Sykes based the prediction on the pattern of small earthquakes that preceded the main shock, an idea he examines with Dr Steven Jaume in *Nature* magazine today.

If big earthquakes follow small ones, this might allow some degree of prediction. But can the research-

ers forecast when the next big earthquake will strike San Francisco? Here there is a dilemma. Several decades of relative calm settled over the San Francisco Bay area after the 1868 and 1906 earthquakes. However, it is still too soon to say whether the 1989 shock will be followed by a similar lull, or whether it is simply the harbinger of another big earthquake.

If that is the case, Dr Sykes and Dr Jaume think it may be much nearer the city itself than the 1989 shock, perhaps close to the 1906 epicentre. Even though it would not be as large an earthquake as the 1989 shock — which was itself only one-fifth the strength of the great disaster of 1906 — greater potential loss of life and property damage would make it the Big One in the minds of Californians.

Earthquake prediction has a respectable success rate. Because the circumstances of an earthquake depend more on the local geology than general theory, prediction depends on a detailed knowledge of everything that has gone before.

In the western US, there is comprehensive information on every big shock for the past 150 years, enabling a detailed study of the 1868, 1906 and 1989 earthquakes. Records in Japan, another earthquake-prone region, go back to the beginning of the 18th century. The



Quake pattern: was last year's shock the Big One or a forerunner?

large San Francisco earthquakes seem to follow a pattern. There is a decades-long crescendo of small shocks, culminating in the main earthquake, which is followed by a long period of calm. Furthermore, the preliminary rumbles rarely happen on the part of the fault where the main shock is to be unleashed. Instead, they tend to be centred in a ring around the soon-to-be epicentre, what researchers call the

Mogi Doughnut, named after Kiyoo Mogi, the Japanese seismologist who first noticed the pattern in a study of earthquakes in Japan in 1944 and 1946.

Researchers think the large earthquakes occur when the accumulated strain in a geological fault is released. This strain builds up over many years as the tectonic plates of the Earth's crust, meeting at the fault line, rub against each other.

The tectonic plates continue to move, even after the earthquake. This leads to a further build-up of strain, resulting in a flurry of small earthquakes and culminating in the main shock, which releases the strain once more.

Japan, Siberia and the American west coast lie on the so-called Circle of Fire, a seismically active edge of the Pacific tectonic plate. Researchers on the Pacific coast have scored prediction successes, despite the different geological conditions that apply locally. Researchers say that forecasts that cannot be more precise than the nearest decade could improve. This is because the measurements of strain in the ground, and initiatives such as the global positioning system can calculate fault movements with an error of less than 1cm per 1,000km from orbit.

However, Dr Allan Lindh, of the US Geological Survey, points out in today's *Nature*, that earthquakes are superficial side-effects of processes deep within the Earth. Once we know what these are, we may understand earthquakes better.

Continent speaks of opportunity

The British, who talk the universal computer language, have an advantage

JOBSCENE

As the British recession bites deeper, information technology staff made redundant face the prospect that they will not necessarily be able to get another job immediately, as they would have been able to do in the Eighties. But they are in a strong position to capitalise on the shortage of high-tech skills in Europe.

A steady stream of European companies, particularly from France and Germany, and international management consultancies are looking for British staff to work on the Continent — without requiring candidates to be fluent in a second language.

Workers here are fortunate that the international computing language is English, because of the predominance of American products in the field.

The Institute of Manpower Studies, at Sussex University, points out in a recent report on the European labour market that employers are beginning to tackle the internationalisation of their industries. The report says there is a growing demand in Europe for employees in the scientific and technical fields.

Richard Pearson, the deputy director of the IMS, says: "Even those employers who purely UK-based activities, such as much of the public sector, will not be immune to the development of a European dimension to the labour market, as continental recruiters target the UK and individuals start to seek jobs across national borders."

"The British market is clearly declining and we have had a huge response to our advertisements for jobs in Europe," says Brian Harris, the director of OCC Personnel, in Cheshire. "The quality of British staff is highly thought of on the Continent and they are often younger than their continental counterparts who tend to stay in higher education for longer periods."

OCC is seeking to recruit about 50 information technology staff for firms in Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France and Spain, with less than a third requiring a second language. French, Italian and Spanish companies usually want candidates to speak their language, but multinationals operating in those countries tend to be more flexible. Many of these companies set up mixed nationality teams of information technology staff in various European locations where English is the working language.

The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications, for example, is looking for support analysts for its headquarters in La Hulpe, Belgium. The society does not require a second language as the systems developed are used worldwide.

Air France and Alcatel, the telecommunications company,

sever, are finding that commercial companies tend not to ask candidates for formal qualifications in information technology nor require employees to be members of any professional association.

Alan Roussel, the BCS president, says: "No self-respecting chief executive would dream of appointing a finance director who did not belong to a professional body; a chief engineer who did not belong to his; and yet he will happily appoint a director of information technology without even recognising the BCS exists."

Leslie Tilley

E, by gum, may be good for your teeth

The shining smiles of today's children are a tribute to the effects of fluoride in water supplies and toothpaste. The number of rotting teeth has fallen sharply in developed countries in the past 20 years, reducing the need for the drilling and filling that once seemed as inevitable as taxes.

A group of Norwegian dental hygienic specialists at the University of Oslo has now, however, chosen to question this belief. They do not doubt that fluoride, with its enamel-strengthening properties, is a valuable aid to dental health, but they point out that in many countries the fall in the number of dental cavities began before fluoride was introduced. What, then, caused it?

Professor Harald Eriksen, a member of the group, says there are a number of possible explanations. One is that the bacteria responsible for tooth decay began to lose their virulence, as have other pathogenic

Dental fillings could become a thing of the past, thanks to unexpected help from preservatives

organisms in the past. A more far-fetched theory, which the group put to the test, is that the introduction of preservatives in food and drink from about 1960 onwards had some influence on the balance of bacteria in the mouth. The function of preservatives such as benzoids and sorbic acids is, after all, to control bacteria in foodstuffs. Might they not have the same effect in the mouth?

Reports of food consumption from the Norwegian Bureau of Statistics were used to work out the amount of both these preservatives in the diet. Calculations were then made of the concentrations of the preservatives in the mouth, and used as the basis for testing against cultures of the bacteria that cause

tooth decay. They found that the concentrations of preservatives did indeed have a "slight, but not insignificant" impact on the growth of the bacterial cultures.

Professor Eriksen is cautious about declaring that this is one reason for the decline in tooth decay — down 50 per cent or more in most western countries — but he is sufficiently persuaded to continue the work and to follow up the preliminary results, published recently in the *Norwegian Medical Association Journal*, with a more detailed study.

So are those despised E numbers really good for you? It is amusing to think that modern food and drink, blamed for almost every ill that

afflicts us, may actually be helping to preserve our teeth.

The Oslo work could be more than just a historical curiosity. Dentists believe that if further improvements in fighting tooth decay are to be made, they will come from treatments designed to eliminate the bacterium *Streptococcus mutans* from the mouth.

Fluoride has strengthened tooth enamel; now the battle must be taken to the bacterium that generates the acids that rot it away.

A variety of methods has been tried, from simple mouth-washing to painting bactericidal agents on the teeth and protecting them from salivary action by a thin layer of polyurethane. Two scientists at the University of Toronto reported two years ago that this method appeared effective in eliminating *streptococcus* in 33 adults tested.

NIGEL HAWKES



GED

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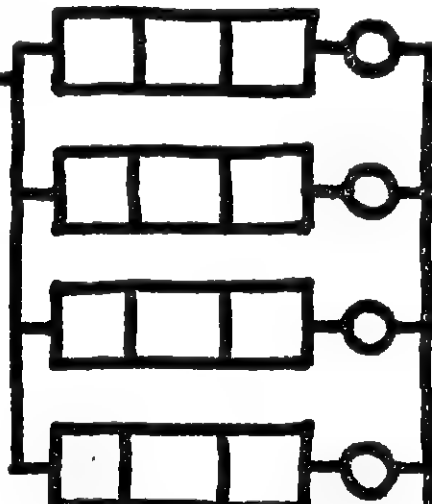
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The position is available immediately for up to three years and will be funded on the Research and Analogous Staff, Grade 1A salary scale.

Further information can be obtained by telephoning Professor GA Codd, tel: (0382) 23181 ext.4765.

Applications in writing with CV (2 copies) and the names and addresses of three referees to The Personnel Office, The University, Dundee DD1 4HN, tel: (0382) 23181 ext. 4015. Please quote reference EST/455/90/T.

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Informal enquiries may be made to either Robert Bradshaw or William Roberts on 071 575 5234 or email: roberts@cs.qmw.ac.uk.

To apply, please send a full curriculum vitae, to include the names and addresses of two referees to the Recruitment Co-ordinator, Personnel Office, Queen Mary & Westfield College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, quoting the relevant reference no.

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PARKE-DAVIS

MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

To political commentators, a man in his late forties is young, but to a urological surgeon he is already ageing. For by the age of 50 one out of two men have evidence of prostatic disease. Patients and their doctors tend to ignore the minor symptoms of early benign prostatic hypertrophy — the enlargement of the prostate gland which encircles the urethra where it leaves the bladder, rather in the way that the jubilee clip surrounds the hose which leads from a car's radiator. Enlargement of the gland, which secretes three-fifths of the semen, is an inevitable accompaniment of ageing, and as it enlarges it constricts the urethra. Just as tightening a jubilee clip would obstruct the flow in a car's coolant system, so does prostatic enlargement restrict urinary flow.

Early symptoms (having to get up once a night, being last to leave the stalls, even dribbling on a bit) are a social nuisance. As they get worse, sleep is constantly disturbed, and the urinary frequency and urgency interfere with business and social life and can become disabling. Later, if the warnings are still ignored, the straining to pass urine may cause dilation of the upper urinary tract, and eventually damage, sometimes fatally, the kidneys. Treatment is often postponed because even if the patient has no fear of surgery he may be reluctant to face the changes in his sex life caused by the standard operation, a TUR (transurethral resection).

This operation damages the nerves around the bladder neck so that when ejaculating thereafter the semen, instead of being forcibly discharged, trickles back into the bladder. The quantity of semen is greatly reduced and the quality and length of the orgasm also suffers; frequently the surgery provides the coup de grace to an already failing sex life.

Microwaving the prostate with

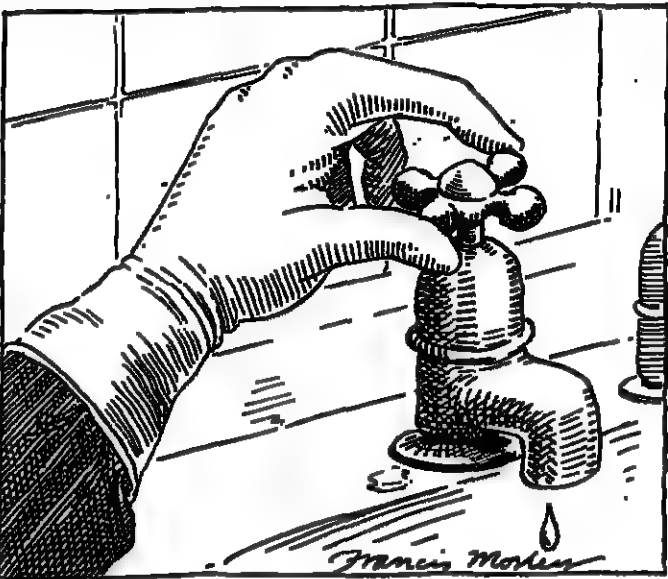
Turning on the heat

thermotherapy by heating the prostate to above 45°C offers a hope for middle-aged men that in future they may be able to retain both dignity and a sex life. The treatment, one visit only, needs no anaesthesia, no hospital admission, no use of catheters and messy bags, no time off work, and afterwards the patient, with a smaller but still functioning prostate, still has a normal quantity of semen. For thermotherapy spares the periphery of the prostate gland even as it burns the adenomatous tissue which has caused trouble.

This week the Harley Street

Clinic unveiled a new French machine, the Prostatron, which provides the latest in transurethral microwave therapy. The machine heats the centre of the prostate by means of a probe inserted into the urethra — the urethral lining, meanwhile, being protected by cooling. There is no pain after treatment. Mr Roger Kirby, one of the surgeons operating the Prostatron, said: "The older system, in which the heat was delivered from the rectum, was cheaper but much of the heat was absorbed by the rectal wall, several visits were necessary and the results were less satisfactory. Prostatron therapy has been used on over 1,200 patients worldwide with over 90 per cent success."

Prostatron therapy is conducted under ultrasound control. An ultrasound, together with blood tests, is used to exclude malignant disease, for as yet thermotherapy is only recommended for benign enlargement. Even though evidence suggests that it is highly effective in destroying cancer cells.



No need to spare the rod



No Smacking Week starts on New Year's Day. Schoolmasters disagree over corporal punishment. Colonel Stuart Townsend, of Hill House, is reported to be opposed to corporal punishment, whereas Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former education minister, seems to approve of the occasional whack. Before the war, schoolmasters

were in no doubt, however. Nowhere was this more apparent than in Jesuit schools, where it was thought that to spare the rod not only spoiled the child for this life but probably resulted in eternal damnation. In consequence, schoolboys spent long hours discussing ways in which their skin could be so toughened and anaesthetised that they would not feel the "lolly" or ferule, the traditional instrument of chastisement. Despite dormitory plotting, no proprietary treatment was ever invented, but now a near-perfect skin anaesthetic which would have been the answer to boys' prayers has been invented. Enla cream is the combination of two lipid-soluble local anaesthetics which pene-

trate the skin. It is so effective that it provides sufficient anaesthesia to allow the taking of split skin grafts. However, its principal value is as an aide in the hundreds of minor procedures carried out in consulting rooms. Small skin nodules and warts, including genital warts, can be removed after its application and injections can be carried out painlessly. Although not officially recommended for this use, when put on a child's grazed knee it enables the doctor to remove chips of gravel or granite without the usual accompanying howls. One doctor even keeps a tube of Enla by his oven so that if his wife burns her wrists as she takes out the Sunday joint she is still able to enjoy lunch.

Raising a glass

Thousands of women who have abandoned contraception will be worried about the effect a Christmas drink may have on any baby conceived over the next week or two. Alarmed by reports of foetal alcohol syndrome, they fear that a glass of sherry before the turkey, or champagne to herald the New Year, will turn their would-be genius into an amiable but stupid pixie.

Their worries are unnecessary. Heavy alcohol consumption should be avoided by any woman who might become pregnant as it can cause this rare syndrome but a study from Australia, reported in *Pulse* magazine, which followed 655 women (some of whom drank a glass of sherry before the turkey, or champagne to herald the New Year, will turn their would-be genius into an amiable but stupid pixie.



wine have nothing to be concerned about. Indeed, the authors conclude that the advice to abstain totally is not only unjustified, but counter-productive as it causes guilt and worry.

Was illness just music to Mozart's ears?

Pain sometimes goes hand in hand with artistic genius.

Liz Gill on the popular science of historical diagnosis

There are some doctors for whom a little Mozart ideally means a silver of his bone or a scraping of tissue, anything that might enable modern science to solve a 200-year-old puzzle.

The composer, who died in 1791 at the age of 35 and was buried, without a post-mortem, in a pauper's grave, remains the most tantalising of subjects for those interested in retrospective diagnosis. As Dr John O'Shea, the author of *Music and Medicine*, says: "Mozart is the ultimate mystery. With someone like Schubert, while it is tragic that he died of typhoid fever, really the file is closed. But with Mozart there is always this element of doubt. And we lost so much with his powers."

Retrospective diagnosis can reach back almost any number of years. An article in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* attempted to work out the chemical process whereby Lot's wife became a pillar of salt; another argued that much of the leprosy in the Bible was in fact neurodermatitis, a condition related to stress and thus amenable to cure by Christ's touch.

Interest in medical history has grown in recent years, according to Professor Sydney Selwyn, the director of the postgraduate diploma course in the subject at Westminster and Charing Cross Hospital's medical school.

Professor Selwyn is intrigued by the influence of infection on the course of events, not only on the large scale — "we know the Black Death swept away feudalism" — but also on the individual. What would have happened if Prince Albert had not died of typhoid, or if Napoleon's haemorrhoids, the result of repeated bouts of dysentery, had not been painfully inflamed at the Battle of Waterloo?

Whether suffering contributes to the creative process, however, is a matter for debate. Dr Roy Porter, a lecturer in the history of medicine at the Wellcome Institute, says there is some evidence that consumption and its metabolism-increasing fever enhanced the senses and fuelled the imagination. Similarly, some of the opium-based drugs taken to relieve symptoms produced highly unusual states of mind.

"I'm sure you have to suffer to produce something worthwhile," says Dr Porter, "but whether being ill causes genius is unproven. For every Keats there were millions of consumptives; hundreds of opium-takers for every Coleridge. At the same time, if they had been treated they might not have produced what they did. Take a rather strange genius like John Clare, for instance, who ended up in an asylum. Today he would probably be on Largactil, and not



Suffering for their art: (clockwise from top left) Beethoven, Van Gogh, Mozart and Jane Austen

have the consciousness to write those poems. And if one had known about Beethoven's appalling ancestry he would probably have been aborted."

Dr Tom Palmerman, a consultant physician and rheumatologist at Yeovil District Hospital, believes Beethoven's pain and his music are inextricably linked. His article in October's *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* offered sarcoidosis, a multi-system rheumatic disease, as the most likely cause of all the musician's problems, including his deafness.

"Sarcoidosis was not recognised in his day, but it can be treated nowadays with steroids," Dr Palmerman says. "My feelings are rather ambivalent. I cannot help feeling sympathy with him; he suffered so terribly, and he must have been in agony sometimes."

"If he had been helped he would have had more time to compose — he used to be confined to bed for weeks at a stretch; and if he had lived longer we might have got the tenth symphony and beyond. But would a happy man have

'It can be invigorating and inspiring to know what people achieved despite their pain'

written the late string quartets?"

Dr O'Shea, a senior house officer in ophthalmology at Frimley Park Hospital, details in his book the health profiles of 19 composers, from Bach to Gerhards. He is currently doing similar research on political leaders. "With politicians the experience of illness seems almost always to have been deleterious, but the musicians somehow used it to enhance productivity. These people started off with phenomenal gifts, but I think you do need stress to create."

Musicians are favourite subjects for retrospective diagnosis, but other spheres have provided fruitful ground recently for researchers. Jane Austen may have had Addison's disease, where the adrenal glands failed to produce vital

hormones; Anton Chekhov was probably a depressive; and Van Gogh was probably not a madman at all, but a victim of severe Ménière's disease, and his ear mutilation could have been a desperate attempt to be rid of the torment of tinnitus.

Is all this at best a mere academic exercise, and at worst, prurience? Professor Selwyn believes medical biography is fascinating in itself. "It gives an extra dimension to the art, and it can be invigorating and inspiring to know what people achieved despite their pain. It shows the resilience of the human spirit."

One recurring theme in retrospective diagnosis is the frequency with which contemporary doctors made matters worse. Dr O'Shea believes the practice of tapping the fluid in Beethoven's stomach may have hastened his end by two years — "and two years of Beethoven's life is quite something."

● *Music and Medicine*, by Dr John O'Shea, is published by J.M. Dent, price £18.95.

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THE SHADOW OF DIABETES

BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION

Help for the baby losers

MISCARRIAGE has always been an enigma. Although it is known that one in five pregnancies ends in miscarriage, there are no statistics on, or explanations why, particular women repeatedly lose their babies.

Now, however, Miss Lesley Regan, a gynaecologist at St Mary's Hospital, London, is about to launch a trial involving several hundred women which, she hopes, might confirm the findings of a two-year field study of 193 women. That study, which was based in Cambridge and conducted with her colleague, Dr Elizabeth Owen, and Professor Howard Jacobs, indicated that high levels of luteinising hormone in a woman's body before conception could be one important cause of recurrent miscarriage.

"The idea originally came from past experience of women undergoing extensive fertility treatment (including in vitro fertilisation). Those who had high levels of luteinising hormone in the early part of their menstrual cycle — when the egg was being developed — were less likely to get pregnant and, if they did, they were more likely to miscarry," Miss Regan says.

There were, however, no data for "normal" women not undergoing such fertility treatment, which was why the Cambridge study was launched. So far, nobody is sure why a high level of luteinising hormone might interfere with the complex process of making babies. "It might be the effect that the hormone has on the maturing egg," Miss Regan says. "Or it could be that the luteinising hormone affects other hormones produced by the ovaries. Another possibility is that it might signal the presence of polycystic ovaries which, in turn, can cause ovulation problems."

A new trial gives hope to women who suffer repeated miscarriages



Lucky: Christopher Collins

We seem to be in a circle, and hope the next study will provide some clearer answers.

One woman who is waiting to be referred to the St Mary's team is Jacqui Collins, aged 35, from Walthamstow, east London. Over the past 12 years she has had a total of five miscarriages in the first three months of pregnancy, as well as an ectopic pregnancy (when the egg implanted in a fallopian tube, consequently causing her to lose part of that tube). She succeeded in producing a healthy son, Christopher, now aged five, after the third miscarriage, when she was sent to her local hospital for hormone treatment with injections of human chorionic gonadotropin. Similar treatment during her next two pregnancies, however, failed to prevent her from miscarrying again. So Mrs Collins — a former nursery school teacher, now secretary of the Miscarriage

Association, which runs a network of voluntary supporters — hopes that the luteinising hormone project at St Mary's might provide some answers.

The new trial, due to start early next year, will involve a simple blood or urine test taken during the early part of the cycle to indicate the levels of natural luteinising hormone. Possible treatment will be the use of drugs already employed in fertility treatment to lower such hormone levels. So far, there is no firm evidence such treatment is effective in producing a successful pregnancy, although previous small studies of women with polycystic ovaries are promising.

IN THE future, if the new study is encouraging, luteinising hormone tests could be used as a routine ante-natal prediction method of identifying the sub-group of patients who are in danger of recurrently miscarrying, and then treating them to prevent further heartache. However, Miss Regan stresses that even if this dream comes true, it will not help all women who lose their pregnancies with agonising regularity, since luteinising hormone levels might be only one cause.

But many women will appreciate the glimmer of hope the programme provides. Mrs Collins says: "You get to the point where everything seems confused. That's why it is so important to have research projects. Even if St Mary's can't help me, it shows someone is taking miscarriage seriously."

JANE BIDDER

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Readers interested in taking part in the St Mary's trial should write to Miss Lesley Regan at St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London W2 1NY.

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Back to the Brothers, knots and all

Andrei Navrozov on the rough trade of rendering Russian masterworks into English that reads like the original, or not

Although both were originally published in America by small presses with government grant support, these books represent two opposing forces in the world of translation from the Russian, and perhaps, more broadly, in western culture as a whole. On the face of it, a new English rendering of *The Brothers Karamazov* would seem to be the quintessential academic exercise, while the first complete edition of Akhmatova's poems, with originals facing the English versions, is a genuine contribution to literature. Let us test this preconception by opening the latter at random.

Here is the beginning of a poem from Akhmatova's *White Flock*. I adapt traditional transliteration to enable the reader to grasp her prosodic message:

Uzhé klenovye lesty
Na prúd slezayut lebediny...

"Already the maple leaves", translates Hemschmeyer, "are falling on the swan pond." If lines from Housman had been accurately rendered into Esperanto and transmitted in Morse code by a Basque shepherd, more of what makes poetry would have survived, I think.

The next line focuses the hypnotic syllable and, this being Akhmatova, infuses it with tragedy:

Se okrovnyenye kury...

"Krov", etymologically related to the English "raw", means "blood". Sanguine clusters of this

THE COMPLETE POEMS OF ANNA AKHMATOVA

Translated by Judith Hemschmeyer
Edited, with an introduction, by Roberta Reeder
Zephyr Press, distributed by Airlift Book Company, two volumes £65.00

THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV

By Fyodor Dostoevsky
Translated by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky
Quartet, £15.00

raw "r" are proffered in an autumnal diminutive:

Nesplashno zryvshiesi ryabiny.

The bushes of quicken (rowan), ripening unburied, are now stained with blood. In Hemschmeyer, anecdotally, the leaves keep falling "on" the bushes, which become "late-ripening". But the howlers in this book are not as bewildering as its premiss, for only someone with a deaf ear and the blind ambition to capture a market would dare translate the "complete poems" of a poet who, after all, spent a lifetime writing them. In her preface, Hemschmeyer describes how she "decided to learn Russian" in 1973.

Larissa Volokhonsky was born in Leningrad, and this issue of her collaboration with Richard Pevear is nothing short of a total revision in western perceptions of Dostoevsky as a writer of prose.

Where previous translators of *The Brothers Karamazov* sought to sandpaper the novelist's diction on the assumption — still widespread even in Russia — that he was a better "thinker" than he was a "writer", this version makes him bristle like freshly varnished wood. That "roughness", which the more superficial Russian reader has, over the years, been accustomed to gloss over and think himself generous for overlooking, is of course Dostoevsky's very essence.

The new Volokhonsky-Pevear version keeps the superficial English reader from repeating the mistake of his Russian counterpart. It reads "like the original", as some say Dickens always does in Russian. What is convoluted or tortuous, strained or fanciful in Dostoevsky is here transported intact — lock, stock and barrel — in the belief that everything done by a writer of genius is, above all else, deliberate. The result would have been remarkable enough owing solely to that noble and stubborn premiss. Yet it is also a miracle of intelligent, meticulous critical analysis — of the kind that must of necessity underlie an original work of translation — and this makes every page of the new *Karamazovs* a permanent standard, and an inspiration.

As for the broader question that comes to mind when these two books are said to represent opposing cultural forces, the answer, I suggest, is this. A book is not a product. Do not attempt to judge it by the niche that it is intended to fill.



Dostoevsky, Slav master of the crooked timber of humanity, rendered into rough-hewn new English

Dark old Satanic mill house

HORROR

Anne Billson

SWEET HEART
By Peter James
Gollancz, £13.95

THE haunted house story is a staple of supernatural fiction. Peter James's third novel is in the traditional old dark house vein, with a judicious sprinkling of gruesome death tacked on for the bloodthirsty modern market. Annoying yuppies Charley (short for Charlotte) and Tom buy an old mill deep in the heart of the Sussex countryside. She is trying to get pregnant. He — the cad — is making eyes at her best friend. Surprised their new home just happens to have been the site of traumatic betrayal and subsequent violent demise in the past. Reader yawns with *déjà vu* and prepares to sign off, but then a strange thing happens; though James's plot is as creaky as ancient mill timber, he possesses a genuine gift for storytelling. It doesn't make the plot any less predictable or the heroine any less annoying, but it does keep the reader turning the pages and shuddering at all the things that go bump in the night. Animal-lovers should be warned that dogs and fish come out of it very badly.

Best New Horror, edited by Stephen Jones and Ramsey Campbell (Robinson, £6.99). The title is spot-on. This really is the cream of the new crop, fronted by a jacket illustration so scary I had to wrap it in a brown paper bag to avoid giving myself the heebie-jeebies late at night. Stephen Callaghan's "The Horn" (motorway, blizzard, breakdown) did nothing to set my mind at rest. Anyone who is curious about the state of contemporary horror fiction should grab a copy of this book and devour it.

Dark Voices 2, edited by David Sutton and Stephen Jones (Pan, £3.99). This is none other than our old friend *The Pan Book of Horror* given a shot in the arm and modish new house style. Sutton and Jones have compiled a pleasing rag-bag of big names, Pan Horror veterans, and first-timers such as Michael Marshall-Smith, whose "The Man Who Drew Cats" (subtle, beautifully understated stuff about a pavement artist with peculiar powers) marks him out as a name to watch. I also liked Marcus Gold's "The Vulture" — the sort of Grand Guignol scenario with a high yuck factor for which this series is renowned.

Soul Eater, by K. W. Jeter (Pan, £3.99). I thought I'd had it up to here with novels about possessed children, but this one is distinguished by unusually eloquent writing and a firm grasp of characterisation. David Braemer realises something is up when his ten-year-old daughter plunges a knife into the heart motif on an "I Love New York" apron. He subsequently learns that his ex-wife has acquired some seriously unpleasant habits, most of them stemming from one of those Californian psychic cults. The plot isn't startlingly original, but Jeter relates it in ingenious fashion, teasing the reader with choice tidbits of information before going flat out with the sadomasochistic relationships, dead-meat hallucinations, and psychic hide-and-seek in sleazy motels.

Much mood ado about not a lot

Jasper Rees

AS IN MUSIC
And Other Stories



By Kathy Page
Methuen, £12.99

ALL ABOUT WOMEN

By Andrew M. Greeley
Robert Hale, £13.95

ACT OF RAGE

By Joseph Hayes
Robert Hale, £14.95

FIRST this week to Kathy Page, whose third novel, last year's *Island Paradise*, harvested a full crop of praise for its precise, imaginative style. As in *Music*, an anthology of fictional goblets, finds her on similarly good form linguistically. But there is a sense in which the brevity of this other genre works against the brevity of her prose. Many of these pieces underdeliberately befit a title that in fact refers to the final story, being not, significantly more than literary mood music. In all of them there is a competently wrought sense of atmosphere, but there is little into which the reader can sink a set of incisors — the spiky little moment of truth or eerie aperçu that is one of the short story's traditional ingredients.

Page's frequent theme is the sometimes liberating, sometimes problematic malfunctioning of the body. The other-worldly, variously unhinged people of her stories are blind or dumb or amnesiac, victimised by disease, afflicted by their own emotions, or ostracised by their fellow men and women. In "The Ancient Siddhans" tourists visiting an abandoned desert city discover that its inhabitants thrive on nightlessness. In "The Reason for Green" a mother saves her incapable twin sons from having to earn their keep by slashing their jugular veins. These two stories are exceptional in a bookless book that contains many decorative sentences in which nothing compelling seems to happen.

The shortcoming of Page's stories is that they are not really about anything. Andrew M. Greeley's in *All About Women* are about grace and favour. They might equally be about men, many of whom narrate and participate. But there is something courteous in Father Greeley's writerly demeanour that insists on deferring the limelight to the sex of which, as a Catholic priest, he has scant sexual knowledge. The church and its representatives may guide his bruised, impassioned, wilful characters (mostly Chicagoans of Irish stock) towards the pocket salvation provided at the end of each story, though this is not to say that his men are not mental, to use the author's word, as "objectifications". As Greeley's people look back in their dotage to moments of inertia that have

determined the course of their lives — a missed kiss or an unspoken word — the prevailing spirit is not of sadness, but of generosity. Some of the pieces are too well-intentioned to be anything but bland, but the cumulative achievement of this book is to contravene one of the first laws of fiction — that only the evil are interesting.

Act of Rage, on the other hand, obeys that edict to the letter. Like Greeley, Joseph Hayes is a prolific American craftsman. *Act of Rage* turns in a highly professional thriller about an act of rape. Carole, the victim, is traumatised by the realisation that her unseen violator is someone she knows: as she likes everyone she knows, it must have been someone she likes — one out of her husband, his best buddy, and various others. The lone man above suspicion is veteran former NYC cop Henry Lindheim, whose investigations reveal, in the manner of *Twin Peaks*, that guilt of the current crime or not, everyone is tainted with an incriminating secret, not least the pillars of the social establishment, whom his seniors will not allow him to suspect. Hayes alternately tells his story from the point of view of the neurotic victim and the stolid investigator, modulating the tone nicely between the two of them.

OSAMU DAZAI is gradually becoming known in the West as a major Japanese writer. He was born in the far north of Honshu in 1909, and committed suicide in 1948, after several unsuccessful attempts in the course of his short life. His two great novels, *The Setting Sun* and *No Longer Human*, were written during the last two years of his life, and were published in English translation by Donald Keene in 1956 and 1958. These are his best-known works in the West. In Japan, people still throw flowers into the Tamagawa Canal where he drowned himself with his mistress, and pay homage at his grave. Now his other works, mainly short stories and autobiographical essays, are being issued in English. His travel diary, *Return to Tsushima*, which is also autobiographical, was published in 1985. *Crackling Mountain* opens with a substantial essay, *Memories*, that at times reads like fiction, about his childhood and youth. His family was rich and powerful, and young Osamu had every advantage, yet there was in his character from the start a comic rebelliousness that when he reaches adolescence irresistibly reminds one of Salinger's Holden Caulfield. There is the same wry self-mockery and one can hear the voice breaking:

Then the other instructors started hitting me. They gave all sorts of reasons for dishing out such punishment. I was yawning, grinning, or whatever. My unrestrained yawning apparently became a subject of conversation in the teachers' room. It amused me to think what dumb things they talked about there.

Apart from the translator's deplorable "or whatever", it might be

Now out of Japan something new

James Kirkup

CRACKLING MOUNTAIN

By Osamu Dazai

Translated by James O'Brien

Peter Owen, £13.95

FIVE THOUSAND RUNAWAYS

By Takeshi Kaiko

Translated by Cecilia Segawa Seigle

Peter Owen, £13.95

Holden himself speaking. There is a tonic disrespect for the worlds of both young and old. Our anti-hero detests sports:

Whenever our school competed in tennis, judo, or even baseball, I had to join the cheering section. This made me dislike high school all the more... When I spied an opportunity, I'd slip away from the cheering section and go home.

At home, he reads books, writes and performs plays, listens to music and is utterly, comically, self-absorbed, as any budding writer should be.

I was very intrigued by my face. When weary of reading, I would take out a hand-mirror and gaze at myself. Smiling, frowning, looking contemplative with my cheek resting on my palm, I never got

bored... I kept gazing towards the fire, though with the side of my face towards her. I figured the glare of the flames would make my profile glimmer and look splendid.

But in spite of all his efforts, he has little success with girls. There are some hints of homosexual experiences that make one think that the writer's later frenzied drinking, whoring, and drug-taking must really have been the only way he knew to suppress innate homosexual tendencies.

Self-absorption is described in a humorous way in "On the Question of Apparel", in which the young would-be dandy horrifies his male friends by his unsuitable clothes and lack of taste. Most of the other stories are retellings of classic tales like Jean-Paul's *Undine* and Schiller's version of the Damon and Phintias story. The latter, "Melos, Run!", because of its moralistic tone, became a favourite in school anthologies, though the prudish Ministry of Education insisted upon the censoring of the final lines, in which Melos is revealed as being stark naked. This is a typical example of Japanese prudery, unfortunately exacerbated by the influence of Christian missionaries. I myself have experienced such coy censorship in the books I wrote in Japan, when Asahi Press refused to allow me to use the word "love seat" in a harmless essay comparing British and American usages. It was feared

that teachers and students would be embarrassed by having to pronounce the word in class, for much of the archaic Japanese method of language teaching consists of reading aloud, copying the teacher's often atrocious accent. The title story is one of the best-known Japanese folk-tales, given several unexpected and delightful twists by Dazai. "Crackling Mountain" was written, along with four other folk tales, during the second world war, and Dazai's version has a freedom of fantasy and humour that reminds one continually of Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear. Dazai was reacting against another kind of censorship, the bowdlerising of folk tales, which prim and proper educators had decided were too cruel and violent for children. Again I met the same kind of censoriousness when I wrote my own versions of the tales, and in my collection of stories from the *Arabian Nights* exception was taken to the famous story of the hunchback and his various misfortunes, because any reference to physical deformities raises protests in Japan. For that reason, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* is the least favourite of Hugo's works. But the most extraordinary tale in this collection is "Heed my Plea", which is Dazai's original interpretation of the New Testament — a homosexual passion between Jesus and Judas that is the cause of Judas' betraying kiss.

Beside Dazai, Takeshi Kaiko seems rather small beer, but his stories contain fascinating depictions of the Vietnam conflict that the author covered as a journalist. The translation is shaky — "Bach inversion" for "Bach invention", dry martinis in a balloon glass, "anticipating someone to stop them", and so on, ad infinitum.

O.E. can stand for distinctly Outré Evil

CRIME

Chris Petit

I WAS DORA SUAREZ

By Derek Raymond

Scribners, £13.95

DEREK RAYMOND began life as Robin Cook, and under that name published low-life novels in the Sixties, including *A Crust On Its Upper*, a chronicle of ex-public school boys gone bad, and an important slang source for Fowler's *Dictionary*.

Cook, an old Etonian and skinny Chelsea rake, dropped out in the Seventies, then resurfaced in 1984 with a new name to distinguish him from the American, Robin "Coma" Cook. As Raymond, Cook has written three startling police novels, each progressively less concerned with the procedural business of murder investigations — beyond a grisly relish for forensic detail — than with London's dank moral decay, and with obsessive meditations on the nature of evil: to a demented territory closer to Brady and Hindley than the conventional body-in-the-library stuff. In Raymond's last novel, *How The Dead Live*, his narrator — an anti-social, insubordinate, unnamed copper — travelled well beyond the usual boundaries of the crime/thriller format into landscapes more associated with Edgar Allan Poe. It was the clearest statement of Raymond's work — that the dead live and the living are in a sense dead.

A recurring device in the novels is some record left behind by the dead, awaiting interpretation. In *I Was Dora Suarez* it is the diary fragments of a prostitute brutally hacked to death in a grim Kensington flat. As usual with Raymond, the scene of the crime holds an almost mystical significance, seen here first through the eyes of the killer, then by his investigator, called in after the brutal double-murder laconically announced by the opening sentence: "Interrupted by her because she had come to see what was happening next door while he was still finishing up with the girl, the killer

came up to the old woman without a word, got hold of her as if she were a load of last week's old rubbish and hurled her through the front of the grandfather clock which stood just inside the door of the flat, using strength that even he didn't know he had."

In an extraordinarily sustained piece of writing, Raymond first charts the psychopathology of the murderer, then attempts to identify the nature of that violence. In doing so, he shows increasing impatience with the conventions of the genre. The plot has the flimsiness of a B-movie scenario — a Soho club with an inner sanctum that specialises in the most depraved entertainment imaginable — and the routine leg-work interests him much less than his bizarre immersion into, and identification with, the tortured worlds of the killer and victim. With the latter, this verges on the necromantic, so much so that Raymond's detective now seems more at ease as a medium for the dead than in communication with the living, who are greeted with a splenetic, barely controlled rage. The result is a book full of cogulating disgust and compassion for the world's contamination, disease and mutilation, all dwelt on with a feverish, metaphysical intensity that recalls Donne and the Jacobians more than any of Raymond's contemporaries. I cannot think of another work in this field so obsessed with the skull beneath the skin.

Presents for Noel, Carol, Holly, Ivy. (And for Tom, Dick...)



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THEATRE

A stroll round the end of an epoch

Adrian Dannatt on a first world war epic staged in a disused Turin car factory

The mammoth production of *The Last Days of Mankind*—staged in the old Fiat Lingotto factory in Turin—is the Italian theatrical event of the year, possibly even the decade. Everything conspires to make Luca Ronconi's production of Karl Kraus's play a wide-ranging metaphor, connecting with all those areas of contemporary life that good theatre should. Ronconi gives Kraus's sprawling drama of the first world war the room to spread by brilliant use of space and cast.

He deploys the 60 actors and the scenery on parallel sides of a long warehouse, moving them up and down with the audience in between. But this is no conventionally seated audience. The spectators are free to move as they please, listening to a few speeches before strolling on to see what might be happening elsewhere. Ambulatory perception is ideally suited to this play, since Kraus's drama is a major document of that *fin de siècle* Austrian café society, in which the idle observer, the stroller, is an essential player. The dissociation of the intellectual voyeur functions as both symbol and cause of the empire's disintegration.

Some might feel, too, that Turin is the ideal city in which to stage this play, because the same café society still exists here. The sight of Turin's ostentatiously-furred cultural elite following, quite literally, Kraus's dramatisation of bourgeois downfall, was fascinating in itself. Even more so on the first night, as it was packed with journalists: unconscious *doppelgänger*s of the journalists on stage above them. Kraus was a great newspaper man himself, and journalists were much to the fore in every sense in the production, with printing presses rivaling trains as stage motifs.

The irony of using an abandoned Fiat plant to stage a play about the end of the great Western

European tradition was made starkly clear. Ronconi filled the space with old-fashioned machinery, presses, rolling stock, engines, howitzers and even a submarine that emerged out of the top of a train. Just as the old Europe was destroyed by its railways, the war as much their fault as the Kaiser's, so the Fiat factory has been destroyed in turn by technology. So the transformation of a car factory into a cultural space (under the able design of Renzo Piano) is perhaps symptomatic of the end of the same process of historical change whose initial effects are portrayed in Kraus's play.

Ronconi has a bitter-sweet reputation in Italy, in some ways equivalent to Kraus's own controversial status in Austria. He is acclaimed by some as the country's only great modern director, but his television production of *Orlando Furioso* in the 1970s caused outrage with its mixture of naturalistic and highly artificial styles and his work continues to be fiercely criticised as over-mechanistic and even clumsy. Certainly his fondness for movable props and technical tricks, actors who constantly float up and down the central space in a rotating harness from the ceiling, is not far from the crude mechanisms of a Renaissance pageant. And with soldiers, nurses and schoolchildren in their 1914 costumes, shouted news headlines and snippets of dramatic music, the reminiscences of Joan Littlewood's original production of *Oh! What A Lovely War* are sometimes embarrassingly obvious.

After a few hours, it begins to seem just an undifferentiated mass of shouting, ham-acting and lumbering machinery. That Italian fascination with technology leads to one special effect canceling out the last: an emphasis on the next big moment at the cost of the drama's text and fabric. Yet when the audience begin to trail solemnly behind a hearse, or are surrounded by soldiers in the final scene, the point of Ronconi's extravagance is evident, and parallels with our own political climate seem chillingly close.

● The Last Days of Mankind, produced by the Teatro Stabile, is at Lingotto, Turin until December 20.



Extravagant production: *The Last Days of Mankind* in Turin

MUSIC: SOUTH AFRICA

Time to let the music flow freely?



As the United Nations prepares to examine its cultural boycott of South Africa, David Toop reviews its impact on such performers as Miriam Makeba (left) and Johnny Clegg (right)

As South Africa struggles to free itself from apartheid, the moment comes closer when the measures devised to isolate the country—economic sanctions, and the sports and cultural boycotts—will be lifted. As far as the cultural boycott is concerned, there is no dispute that it has discouraged artistic exchange in all fields. Yet it has also contained within it grey areas and contradictions.

Some actors and film directors have flouted it with apparently minor repercussions. But the most emotive and hotly disputed area is music, perhaps because it is the field in which black South Africa has the richest resources of its own. Growing worldwide enthusiasm for black African music—leading, of course, to the prospect of considerable commercial success for those who break onto the world stage—has paradoxically only increased tensions over the boycott's consequences.

Nelson Mandela's release focused many of the problems. The initial euphoria reached its musical apex in April, when Nelson and Winnie Mandela appeared at Wembley Stadium as the climax to a celebratory rock concert. After that, mixed feelings of optimism and despair set in, as apartheid crumbled yet South Africa continued to suffer factional violence. That has affected musicians within South Africa, too. Highly politicised, they sense that democracy, an open society and competition will bring fresh difficulties.

The ten-year cultural boycott will be reviewed by the United Nations on February 1. Entertainment unions across Europe and America have upheld it fairly rigorously for the last decade, and the British Musicians Union has been among the strictest enforcers. Indeed, it discouraged musicians from tours of South Africa even back in the early 1960s. The musical unions, along with individual campaigners like Harry Belafonte in America, have undoubtedly had considerable success in converting musicians to the anti-apartheid cause. Yet the most severe testing of the boycott so far has arisen from two unexpected, seemingly sympathetic sources. Paul Simon's recording of *Graceland* with South African musicians, released in 1986, and the popularity of Savuka, a South African group led by the white anti-apartheid musician Johnny Clegg, have both been the source of conflicts.

Graceland was a project that

seemed to ignore the implications of recording in South Africa. Opinions on Simon's motives became sharply polarised. Many anti-apartheid campaigners spoke out against an inevitable erosion of the boycott's credibility, yet a number of black South African musicians—including the renowned exile, trumpeter Hugh Masekela—took the opposite view. With hindsight, perhaps they were right. The record was one of the most successful of the 1980s and subsequent tours have undoubtedly given welcome exposure to a number of deserving black musicians, as well as generating debate on the subject of apartheid. In this instance, dubious means (judged by the strict letter of the boycott) seem justified by the end.

The now famous case of Clegg presents an equally murky challenge to the apparently simple edicts of the boycott. Born in Rochdale, Clegg settled in South Africa when he was six years old and has since become a vocal, and therefore persecuted, opponent of apartheid. Supported by the ANC, and an active member of the South African Musicians Alliance, he would seem to merit the same acceptance in Britain as visiting black groups from South Africa such as The Soul Brothers or Ladysmith Black Mambazo. He has, however, been consistently obstructed by the British MU, who reasoned that no musician could choose to work in both Britain and South Africa and remain a member of the MU. Why this should have been applied to Clegg and not also to his musical comrades in the mass democratic movement remains unclear.

The controversy over Clegg effectively placed him in a worse position than those artists, including Queen, Frank Sinatra, George Benson, Rod Stewart and Elton John, who have defied international feeling and their union directives in the past and played concerts at the Bophuthatswana resort of Sun City. Most of these musicians have since shown repentance, yet the sort of artist lured to Sun City by huge fees has tended to be either too popular or too desperate to be disturbed by punitive measures. In some cases, only a negative reaction from fans has been enough to create a troubled conscience.

For the British MU, the situation is still clear-cut. According to its general secretary Dennis Scand: "You either have a boycott or you don't. There is no point in having a partial one. The cornerstones of



Leader of the African band: Johnny Clegg, barred from the British MU because of his South African ties.

apartheid are still there. When they go, that may well be the time the ANC would say to us: 'we think we've now got a multi-racial society.' My own view is that the boycott has helped South Africa to get where it is now. If we lift the boycott, would that then legitimise everything there is now and stop movement?"

Within South Africa, many musicians and activists are now engaged in the difficult process of

South African music and education.

In London last week, they approached the British MU for exploratory discussions of the cultural boycott. "There is some feeling now that it's a matter of time before the boycott is lifted," said Darius. "This meeting was to gather information—a kind of a notice of intention to join the world artistic community when the government changes significantly—and to do it in a regularised fashion, so that, to take an analogy from sports, it's not just a question of rebel tours."

Another issue forcing urgent review of the boycott is the staging of exile concerts in South Africa. Kathy Brubeck recently organised a solo piano concert by Abdullah Ibrahim, an exile since 1962, at the City Hall in Durban. "He returned as an artistic hero," she said. The late Chris McGregor also performed in South Africa in recent years, and there are hopes of a triumphant return for all the South African exiles, including such outspoken critics of apartheid as singer Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela. The tragedy is that musicians like McGregor, Johnnie Dyan, Mongezi Feza, Dudu Pukwana and Harry Miller are no longer alive to witness the decline of apartheid.

Visits from exiles have led to emotionally charged perfor-

mances, but South African musicians are apprehensive: a trickle of homecoming concerts by exiles may turn into a flood of European and American visitors, once their isolation is ended and South Africa returns to the global tour circuit. South Africa's dynamic musical culture will act as a magnet for foreign musicians; the feeling among local players is that only a national union can protect their interests. Many hopes lie with Johannesburg's SAMA, the South African Musicians Alliance, which is currently engaged in talks with the established SAMU (South African Musicians Union), an organisation which originally served mainly white orchestral musicians.

These are fragments that are searching for unification. The urgent necessity of coming to terms with free movement and a free market, after so many years of isolation, will inevitably cause problems comparable to those currently being experienced by musicians in eastern Europe. As for a boycott, if it can no longer be enforced or even understood, then surely it must be revised or abandoned. A decade of enforcement has heightened public awareness of the inequities of apartheid; now the confusions of the boycott appear to be resolvable only by the resolution of South Africa's greater problems.

'You either have a boycott or you don't. There is no point in having a partial one'

establishing a musical union which will unite and protect South Africans of all factions when the structure of apartheid is finally dismantled. Included among them are Darius and Kathy Brubeck, Darius, son of the jazz pianist, Dave Brubeck, initiated the first South African jazz studies course at Natal University, Durban, in 1983; both he and Kathy have become known as activists within

TELEVISION

Response less than instant

AS I come close to the end of an enjoyable, if somewhat mind-bending, year monitoring television for these columns, I might perhaps be allowed the general reflection that pre-packaging has a lot to answer for. Television can still jump when a major news story breaks, but for arts and features the time-lag from concept to screen is getting longer. Once again, new technology has slowed everything down.

Twenty years ago, we would settle on a *Late Night Line* subject for BBC 2 each night somewhere around the late afternoon. The corresponding *Late Show* (BBC 2) now often requires days, even weeks, to react to a topical event, presumably because producers want their reaction to look as polished as possible. A couple of talking heads and a caption or two are no longer thought sufficient to keep even late-night viewing figures up to required minority targets.

Consider, too, last night's *Without Walls* (Channel 4), given over to the usually admirable arts monthly "For Love or Money". Its items included a seasonal look at special-offer advertisements for what are known in the trade as "collectables" and usually consist of plates sold in limited editions to which the only limit is the number of impressionable people likely to buy them. The programme also had the story of a man in Romania using priceless works of art as a ransom to free his family, and a feature on tribal sculpture which included the revelation that whereas naked women still sell well in effigy, similarly naked men are reckoned less

attractive to purchasers. So far so good, but any of those items could have been shot a month ago, and some probably were. Of the two big art stories of the week—the death of Armand Hammer and the collapse of the Christie's and Sotheby's auctions, where less than a third of the works on offer were sold—there was no mention. Somewhere between news headlines and elaborately-made features, some good art stories are disappearing down the cracks in the canvas.

Timewatch (BBC 2) has the advantage of historical perspective, and has regularly been coming up with a series of carefully considered and intelligently reconstructed documentaries. Last night it considered Livingstone in Africa, not, for once, the presumed David but his distant cousin William, a planter who ended up with his head on a pole in a nearby church as the result of a sudden rebellion in what was the British colonial Nyasaland of 1915.

"White man's grave, black man's grave" was the story of two men: Livingstone, the white planter standing for oppression, and John Chibembwe, the black Baptist pastor who called for his killing and then saw his own people massacred in white revenge. But, as usual with *Timewatch*, the story turned out to be not quite so simple: Chibembwe was an American-educated intellectual who shared with Livingstone many of the ideals for a peaceful commercialisation of Africa. Until the violence that ended their lives, both men were united by a dream that was never as basic or as un-

complicated as the black-versus-white dichotomy which have grown up around their graves. Yet again, a complicated historical truth was turned into a slogan. It has taken John Triffitt's careful film, never better than when talking to Livingstone's son about his parents' letters home, to get us back to something like the reality.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

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GRAND OPERA GALA
National Symphony Orchestra Conductor DAVID COLEMAN
Soprano SUSAN BULLOCK mezzo-soprano CATHERINE WYN-ROGERS tenor ANDREW MEES bass ALAN OPIE
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Baritone of Seville OVERKURE, LARGO AL FACTORUM, Madam Butterfly ONE FIVE DAY, CARMINA BURANA, LARGO AL FACTORUM, Madam Butterfly ONE FIVE DAY, NESSUN DORMA, The Valkyrie RIDE OF THE WALKYRIES, Samson and Delilah SOFTLY AWAKES MY HEART, PASTORAL PROLOGUE, ON WITH THE MOTLEY, II DROVARE STRIDE LA VAMPA, ANVIL CHORUS, Russia O SILVER WINGS, Coward's RUMORS INTERLUDE, Four Riders DUET, Rigolito LA DONNA E MOBILE, QUARTET, Aida GRAND CHORUS AND BALLET MUSIC, Prince Igor *POLOVTSIAN DANCES with CHORUS & FULL BALLET*

MONDAY 31 DECEMBER at 7.30
TCHAIKOVSKY GALA CONCERT
with LONDON CITY BALLET
National Symphony Orchestra Conductor CHARLES BARKER
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PRO MUSICA CHORUS LONDON CHORALE PANFARE TRUMPETERS OF KNELLER HALL
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Baritone of Seville OVERKURE, LARGO AL FACTORUM, Madam Butterfly ONE FIVE DAY, CARMINA BURANA, LARGO AL FACTORUM, Madam Butterfly ONE FIVE DAY, NESSUN DORMA, The Valkyrie RIDE OF THE WALKYRIES, Samson and Delilah SOFTLY AWAKES MY HEART, PASTORAL PROLOGUE, ON WITH THE MOTLEY, II DROVARE STRIDE LA VAMPA, ANVIL CHORUS, Russia O SILVER WINGS, Coward's RUMORS INTERLUDE, Four Riders DUET, Rigolito LA DONNA E MOBILE, QUARTET, Aida GRAND CHORUS AND BALLET MUSIC, Prince Igor *POLOVTSIAN DANCES with CHORUS & FULL BALLET*

TUESDAY 1 JANUARY at 7.30
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National Symphony Orchestra Conductor ORMSBY WELKINS
Soprano JUDY BROWN mezzo-soprano CATHERINE WYN-ROGERS tenor ANDREW MEES bass ALAN OPIE
PRO MUSICA CHORUS LONDON CHORALE PANFARE TRUMPETERS OF KNELLER HALL
with LONDON CITY BALLET
Baritone of Seville OVERKURE, LARGO AL FACTORUM, Madam Butterfly ONE FIVE DAY, CARMINA BURANA, LARGO AL FACTORUM, Madam Butterfly ONE FIVE DAY, NESSUN DORMA, The Valkyrie RIDE OF THE WALKYRIES, Samson and Delilah SOFTLY AWAKES MY HEART, PASTORAL PROLOGUE, ON WITH THE MOTLEY, II DROVARE STRIDE LA VAMPA, ANVIL CHORUS, Russia O SILVER WINGS, Coward's RUMORS INTERLUDE, Four Riders DUET, Rigolito LA DONNA E MOBILE, QUARTET, Aida GRAND CHORUS AND BALLET MUSIC, Prince Igor *POLOVTSIAN DANCES with CHORUS & FULL BALLET*

*To be danced in full costume

Tickets: Royal Albert Hall, 400 Queen's Gate, London SW7 2AP. 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BRIEFING

Fabled skill takes prize

BRITAIN's top prize for illustrators has been won by John Vernon Lord, professor of illustration at Brighton Polytechnic. Lord won the W. H. Smith Illustration Award for his illustrations for *Aesop's Fables*, retold in verse by James Michie. He was presented with £3,000 in a ceremony at the Victoria and Albert Museum, where a small exhibition of the finalists' work will be on show until February 24.

Clutch of Cowards

JOAN Collins fans who cannot get enough of her in the West End in Noel Coward's *Private Lives* will be delighted to hear that the actress is scheduled to film eight half-hour Coward comedies for BBC 1 this spring. The project, provisionally called *Tonight at 8.30*, casts Collins in a variety of roles first played by Gertrude Lawrence, as well as one part, a railway station barmaid, that was the prototype for Celia Johnson's character in the film *Brief Encounter*. Following that, Collins hopes to return to Coward on stage, if plans to open *Private Lives* on Broadway next October materialise.



Joan Collins: comedy roles

Following fashion

MARTIN Scorsese would not be an obvious candidate for the title of world's best-dressed film director. Nevertheless, the abrasive creator of *Taxi Driver* and *GoodFellas* has turned his talents to a 26-minute documentary, *Made in Milan*, singing the praises of the fashion designer Giorgio Armani.

The film, currently touring the States as part of the exhibition "Images of Man", follows Armani as he goes about his business, supervising his latest creations. There are no plans at the moment for any British screenings. Scorsese, meanwhile, has just begun shooting his next feature, *Cape Fear*, a remake of the 1962 suspense thriller, starring Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte and Jessica Lange.

Last chance

THE choreographer Kim Brandstrup evokes the style of Baroque opera in his retelling of the Orpheus and Eurydice legend for London Contemporary Dance Theatre. This one-act Olivier Award winner, with its strong narrative and elegant design, has proved to be one of the most popular items in the company's repertoire. It features in a mixed programme which includes Paul Taylor's witty satire on social behaviour, *Cloven Kingdom*. LCDT's season ends on Saturday at the Bristol Hippodrome (0272 299444).

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Under attack from Emptiness

Geoff Brown reviews *Neverending Story*.Part II, *Miami Blues*, *Heavy Petting*, *Captain America* and *Three Sisters*

Clear the decks: here come Rock Biter, Mudwatt, Falkor the flying dragon, Soers, Lavaman and Nimble the Bird. There are humans, too, in *The Neverending Story*, Part II (U, Warner West End), though they appear pale shadows compared to this freakish menagerie. This sequel to the 1984 hit returns to Michael Ende's best-selling fantasy novel for inspiration. Here is Bastian Bux again, a motherless schoolboy beset with domestic difficulties: he quails before the high dive at school, while father is preoccupied and prosaic. To gird his loins, Bastian turns the pages of the magical book which shares the film's title. "We need your help," cries the child-like Empress from an illustration, "come back to *Fantasia*!" Enter the menagerie.

This is a film that takes some swallowing. The level of technical achievement is high: if you want a crystalline city, a giant carved from anthropomorphic rock, or castles and towers shooting out of every child's dream science-fiction landscape, here you can sup. Yet the narrative underneath these elaborate effects seems stuck in the rut of the original film: where *Fantasia* was threatened by a consuming force called the Nothing, the land is now under attack from the Emptiness. Spot the difference.

Clarissa Burt supplies sultry venom as the villain Xayide, stalking Bastian in angular dresses that seem about to take flight. Bastian himself, though, proves an impenetrable brick wall: 13-year-old Jonathan Brandis is an overly hardened child actor, drained of spontaneity.

There is also the whimsy. I can cope, just about, with Falkor the dragon—a straggling, dog-like creature crowned with a head bearing a curious resemblance, from certain angles, to Sir Cedric Hardwicke. But the spectacle of Rock Biter's baby, pining for nourishing food and burling "Is that yum yum rocket?" takes matters beyond the pale.

The film, like its predecessor, was made chiefly in Germany; the director is the lesser of the two Australians who go by the name of

George Miller. The impish Miller of *Mad Max* and *The Witches of Eastwick* could never have looked this film's script straight in the eye.

American film-makers are suddenly rediscovering the nation's back catalogue of quirky thrillers. Last week, *The Hot Spot* resurrected a Charles Williams novel; now, *Miami Blues* (18, Cannon Pantion Street) presents the first of Charles Willeford's tales about Hoke Moseby, Miami cop. This is far from the glossy world of *Miami Vice*: Moseby ekes out his life in a seedy hotel, constantly playing with badly-fitting dentures, which are stolen (along with his gun, badge and pride) by a lethal ex-con on a mugging spree.

Miami Blues is the product of two alumni from the Roger Corman exploitation factory. The writer-director is George Armitage, who launched his raffish career with *Private Duty Nurses*; the producer is Jonathan Demme, gifted director of *Married to the Mob* and a practiced hand at off-beat crime. Their script could have benefited from extra narrative twists: once the characters have been wound up and set in motion, there is nothing for them to do except wind down. Yet when the entertainment is mounted with such mischievous glee, who wants to complain?

There are three delicious performances. Fred Ward, who first opined Willeford's novel for the screen, fleshes out the shambling Moseby with droll humour. Alec Baldwin is genuinely unnerving as Junior, careering through Miami like a loose cannon, leaving in his wake chopped fingers, severed eyebrows, and a dead Hare Krishna. Best of all, Jennifer Jason Leigh vaults over the stereotype of the innocent call-girl, and makes Junior's friend Susie a living individual, wistfully dreaming of white picket fences and recipes.

Obie Benz's *Heavy Petting* (ICA Cinema) opens a tasty can of worms: American sex education films. The style of investigation is akin to *The Atomic Cafe*, whose co-director, Pierce Rafferty, contributed to the film in the early stages. Clips from instructional shorts, plus forgotten features

Returning to fantasy: Bastian (Jonathan Brandis) meets Nimble the Bird (Martin Umbeck) in *The Neverending Story, Part II*

such as *High School Hellcats*, are neatly collated, and presented straight, without any rib-ticking commentary.

One honey-voiced instructor murmurs: "Don't do a don't, do do a do." This dainty tone is everywhere: one teenage couple, painfully undertaking the mating dance, discover their mutual interests include bicycle trips and miniature golf. Other clips pursue the bellfry method. A crusty gent, in lurid colour, shows us the ultimate horror: a peewee's rack of girly magazines, eyes and breasts astutely shielded by strips of red tape.

Weaving through the crazy tapestry are snippets of sexual autobiography from 23 people—mostly chic media names. Not all of these add to the film: some witnesses, notably William Burroughs, seem positively tongue-

stied. But the 80 minutes fly by happily enough, beguiling the viewer with grotesque tales of a nation's fear, naivety and dogged sincerity when faced with the birds and the bees.

Captain America (15, regional release only) dives into the Marvel Comics storehouse for inspiration. In the original comic-strip, this Superman clone went to bat against Axis forces, armed with a shield and the colours of Old Glory. For the film, set mostly in the present, the Captain is also equipped with a blonde bimbo sidekick: while his adversary, the Red Skull (malevolent creation of Hitler's scientists), is planning to huck the brain of the American president.

Director Albert Pyun and his scriptwriter seem to have succumbed to St. Vitus's dance: the story lurches breathlessly from setting to setting, before lumping exhausted towards a preposterous

finale filmed at a Yugoslav coastal fort. Matt Salinger's super-hero remains a tedious hunk, but Scott Paulin at least gives a wicked spark to Red Skull, dressed to kill in black suits and lobster-punk skin. This crass hokum is being kept a safe distance from West End moviegoers, the Odéon Barking is the closest venue.

The one new release flying the flag of Art is *Three Sisters* (12, Cannon Swiss Centre), an updated variation on Chekhov's play from the doughty Margarethe von Trotta. Ten years ago, von Trotta films such as *The German Sisters* offered both meaty substance and visual excitement. Since then, a glacial solemnity has crept over the good lady, and in *Three Sisters* (dating from 1988), neither Chekhov nor three striking actresses can do anything to revive her condition.

The setting is the Italian university town of Pavia in the 1980s.

Olga, Masha and Irina have been transmuted into Fanny Ardant, an academic, Cressa Scacchi, a lost soul married to a television comedian, and Valeria Golino, a medical student with her life and hopes still before her. The garrison forces who prompt Chekhov's turmoil are replaced, more or less, by a physics professor who stirs the sisters' sleeping hearts. Out of Chekhov's twists, von Trotta strives to build her own nest of themes: the world's gloomy future, as well as the need for people—women especially—to keep in touch with their feelings and memories.

The three star turns provide passing pleasures. But the drama is dragged down by its shifting focus (the characters refuse to knit together), and the abiding air of refined torpor. Autumn mists, ponderous thoughts, exquisite suffering: this film needs a good kick in the pants.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Snap decisions

Mike Young on exhibitions celebrating the work of two documentary photographers

a social outcast. Certain places lurked him: the zoo, the rodeo, the airport. Areas of transit were of particular interest, with people continually moving, through shadows, through light. His camera was a visual notebook; with urban Americans portrayed as brush husters of the streets.

He liked to move in close and, with a wide angle lens fixed to his camera, photograph at arms' length. At times such an approach inevitably reduced both architecture and environment to crazy disjointed angles, yet even this somehow suggested the anxieties and the complexities of urban existence. His contribution to

photography is best seen when his pictures are exhibited in blocks rather than individually, and especially when mounted, as here, with his contact sheets enlarged to giant proportions.

A generation younger than Winogrand and a fan of the older American was the British photographer, Tony Ray-Jones, who died in 1972 at the age of 30. His best work, "A Day Off: An English Journal" was published posthumously in book form in 1974 and documents, with amazing vivacity, ordinary English people enjoying their leisure. His pictures, with their taut composition and structure, are about many things: social

relationships, body language, and the strange customs that we all pursue. In comparison to Winogrand's self-induced panic and tension, Ray-Jones' work is marked with calm and reflection.

Inspired by Robert Frank's great chronicle of the United States in the late Fifties, *The Americans*, Ray-Jones decided to work on a similar project: a document of the English at play. He wanted to capture the eccentricities of a way of life that, in his view, was on the verge of becoming Americanised. Travelling across the country from Cleethorpes to Cornwall, and from Olyndebourne to Hull, he observed with wit and warm sympathy a whole panorama of leisure pursuits, from the parochial to the grandiose.

© Garry Winogrand: *Fragment of the Real World* is at the Hayward Gallery (071-928 3144) until February 3; Tony Ray-Jones: *A Retrospective* is at the Photographers Gallery (071-831 1772) until January 26



Fragment of reality: "El Morocco" 1955 by Garry Winogrand

SOVIET FILM

Politician framed by poet

Yevgeni Yevtushechenko's second and latest film, *Stalin's Funeral*, is billed as the portrait of a generation, an explanation of how and why he and his contemporaries, including the 59-year-old Mikhail Gorbachev, are what they are, and believe what they believe. But the poet's autobiographical search for the origins of glasnost and perestroika (a universal Soviet experience (the last days of Stalin and the emotions stirred by his death) founders on trite generalities and, dare it be said, on Yevtushechenko's own ego.

There are some visual high points in the film—a joint venture between the Soviet state company Mosfilm and the British company CTS. Many occur in the central sequence, a reconstruction of the stampede which marked the first day of Stalin's lying in state. An estimated 250 people were trampled to death on and around Tрубaya square in central Moscow, when police failed to control crowds rushing to pay their last respects. Yevtushechenko, who was there, satisfied himself that no archive film of the tragedy survived, and masterminded a reconstruction from his memory.

Even here, however, in scenes which could be so personal, much seems derivative. A borrowing from Eisenstein here, something

Yevtushechenko's

new film has

received a mixed

reception in

Moscow, reports

Mary Dejevsky

from *The Third Man* there; a touch of Fellini (the director whom Yevtushechenko's most admires) somewhere else; rati-fied sewers and crochery smashed by a hurricane of mourners. What is recalled as unique—the children passed from hand to hand over the top of the crowd, the single Georgian policeman who eventually pacifies the unmanageable mob—is still moving. But with such material, how could it fail to be?

Yevtushechenko has scored several firsts. He has reconstructed that unrecorded stampede. Against current Soviet trends, he has dared to show, though not sufficiently for some armchair critics in the audience, the outburst of genuine grief when Stalin died. He has also delved into the "doctors' plot" which condemned so many Jewish intellectuals to the camps. The film's greatest weakness is that so much else has been said before, often with greater subtlety. That the Gorbachev generation and his policies

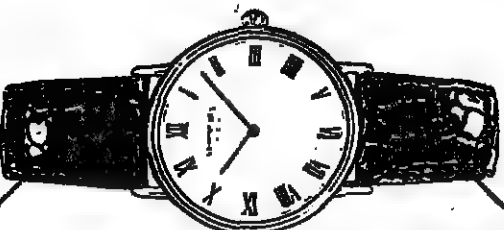
owe much to the contrast they experienced in their formative years between Stalin's purges and Khrushchev's thaw is now a truism.

Much is also known about Yevtushechenko, the brash but politically bold voice of the 1960s. The Soviet public knows enough about Stalin's universal appeal not to need the ponderous image of a peasant boot and a worker's boot, planted side by side in a flower pot after the stampede.

A legitimate question is whether Soviet audiences, cut off from the cultural mainstream for nearly half a century, will be more charitable in their view of *Stalin's Funeral*. For them, perhaps, the plight of the small individual caught up in high politics, the visual allusions to Charlie Chaplin and the verbal allusions to Mayakovsky, plus the tribulations of the young Yevtushechenko, may seem fresher.

The first-night audience in Moscow, however, seemed less than impressed, even though Denis Konstantinov, an untired actor who played the young Yevtushechenko, made a convincing debut. Many were simply confused by the bitty juxtaposition of locations and times. Others wanted more about Stalin and less about Yevtushechenko.

At an after-show press conference, a retired Moscow engineer irritated the poet by challenging his representation of the stampede. He, too, was there and claimed that it "looked" quite different. As a poet, Yevtushechenko could have claimed that he wanted to portray how it felt, not looked. That he did not may point to the film's chief failing. What could have been a tour de force of conflicting emotions and a valuable historical statement became instead an intellectual pastiche.

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BUSINESS

THURSDAY DECEMBER 13 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

ERF goes £1.36m into the red

ERF (Holdings), the sole wholly-British quoted truck builder, reported a pre-tax loss of £1.36 million for the half-year to end-September. The slide from profits of £3.7 million during the same period last year reflects the severe decline of the UK truck market. ERF sales fell 39.5 per cent to £53.3 million.

An extraordinary net profit of £2 million, from the sale of ERF Plastics to DSM, the Dutch chemicals group, resulted in a post-tax profit of £534,000. The interim dividend is halved to 2p.

Countrywide loses £8.1m

Countrywide Properties, the housebuilder and property developer, reported an £8.1 million loss for the year to end-September after £14.3 million of provisions against lower property and land values. Profits last year were £20.3 million.

The board expects a return to profitability and further growth. It is recommending an unchanged final dividend to be paid from reserves. Total dividends were 4.11p per share against 4p last time. Trading profit from the residential division was £7 million against £13.8 million. Commercial division produced trading profits of £3.6 million compared with £11.1 million and property investment contributed £379,000 against £340,000.

Comment, page 29

Compass rises

Compass Group, the contract catering and healthcare company, reported record profits before tax of £29.5 million for the year to end-September, up 17.5 per cent, and earnings of 28.8p a share, up 16.6p. There is a final dividend of 6.5p, making 10.35p (9p) for the year.

Tempus, page 29

Carlton ahead

Carlton Communications, the television services company, has unveiled pre-tax profits up from £112.4 million to £127.1 million in the year to end-September. An 8.5p final dividend makes a total of 14.1p (9.4p).

Tempus, page 29

THE POUNDS

US dollar
1.9440 (+0.0035)
German mark
2.8742 (+0.0022)
Exchange Index
93.3 (+0.2)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
16922 (-13.8)
FT-SE 100
2158.9 (-8.9)
New York Dow Jones
2600.00 (+13.86)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
2399.41 (+42.44)
Closing Prices ... Page 31

Major indices and major changes

Page 30

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 14%
3-month Interbank 13% 13 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 13% 13 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7%
3-month Treasury Bills 6.81-6.79%
30-year bonds 10 7/8-10 7/16%

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Sfr 2.4572
FF 7.7657
Yen 163.32
Index 93.3
ECU 10.711708
ECU 10.405070

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New York:
Comex \$371.75-372.25

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* Denotes latest trading price

FOUR STAR RATES

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia	2.51	Bank	2.48
Austria	2.15	Belgium	18.85
Belgium	62.30	Canada	68.30
Canada	2.25	Denmark	11.56
Denmark	11.56	France	10.18
France	10.18	Germany	2.85
Germany	2.85	Greece	3.18
Greece	3.18	Hong Kong	15.68
Hong Kong	15.68	India	1.11
India	1.11	Italy	2.25
Italy	2.25	Japan	270.50
Japan	270.50	Netherlands	11.75
Netherlands	11.75	Norway	11.75
Norway	11.75	Portugal	285.50
Portugal	285.50	Spain	150.25
Spain	150.25	Sweden	11.26
Sweden	11.26	Switzerland	2.02
Switzerland	2.02	Turkey	2.02
Turkey	2.02	USA	2.00
USA	2.00	Yugoslavia	2.00

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Levitt failed with up to £30m deficit

By ANGELA MACKAY

LIQUIDATORS to the Levitt Group, one of Britain's largest financial services companies, believe the company collapsed with a deficit of shareholders' funds of about £30 million.

The liquidators are sacking about 185 staff this week to curb costs. Tim Hayward and Phil Wallace, joint liquidators from KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, said Levitt had been receiving only moderate income over the past year but costs had "significantly exceeded" that income, which led Roger Levitt, the chairman and biggest shareholder, to put £20 million of his own money into the company.

Mr Levitt's contribution is part of the £30 million deficit. Fimbria, the financial advisers' regulator, had asked Mr Levitt to capitalise the investment rather than continue to treat it as a loan. Mr Levitt refused and according to Mr Hayward, it appears the amount will continue to be treated as a loan.

The remaining £10 million of the deficit was lost at a rate of £2 million a month up to November 30, mainly as costs associated with running the company.

Mr Hayward said the quality of financial information was poor and the most helpful

documents at this stage were accounts prepared by Stoy Hayward, Levitt's auditor, for the five months ended November 30. Stoy Hayward refused to sign off the 1989 accounts and told the company to contact Fimbria.

Mr Levitt is co-operating with the liquidators and voted on Tuesday with the other major shareholders to agree unanimously to a "short notice" liquidation.

Reports at the weekend said most client funds were in jeopardy. It seems, however, that the 18,000 clients held by Levitt Group Ltd, the operational subsidiary, used the company mainly as an insurance broker, with a relatively small number investing money for active management.

The liquidators said they had no figure for the sums invested and actively managed by Levitt, but Fimbria sources said it was about £5 million. The company has £20 million debts, excluding amounts owed to Mr Levitt.

Mr Hayward said Levitt customers with insurance policies brokered by the company would probably be safe, although he could not guarantee this. The prospects for other clients are bleak. Levitt had almost no assets and no cash balances, and other investors will only receive something if the company's

other businesses are sold. Mr Wallace, however, said creditors were unlikely to receive anything.

Mr Hayward said Levitt's custom was to take the full commission on a pension contract at the time it was issued, rather than over the life of the contract, and that it was possible in the current economic climate such business might have dried up, causing a cash crisis.

Only three months ago, Levitt was valued at £150 million by several big institutions which took stakes in the company. Legal and General, General Accident, Commercial Union and Chase Manhattan between them own about 20 per cent of Levitt. Mr Levitt owns about 70 per cent and other small investors the remaining 10 per cent.

There are three main strands to Levitt's financial services division: insurance broking, pensions and mortgage broking. The company also has a sports and entertainment operation.

The group employs about 340 people. However, 57 are with Levitt Insurance Brokers, which the liquidators hope to sell quickly, possibly to management. Mr Wallace said the offices in New York and Paris would close in addition to the redundancies in Britain.

Stoy Hayward denied allegations made in the Commons by Marjorie Mowlem, Labour's City spokeswoman. She claimed insurance policies had been tampered with, and that Mr Levitt was "using profits made from illegal high-risk investment to pay clients for cashed 'policies' which had never existed, and pocketing the surplus".

She alleged Stoy Hayward was aware of these irregularities and that the auditor had some link with Levitt's management "including the possibility that individuals received payments from the Levitt Group for introducing clients to them".

Roger Roberts, spokesman for Stoy Hayward, said the firm knew nothing of either the purported irregularities nor a securities system.

A spokeswoman for Fimbria said Levitt had voluntarily sought the aid of liquidators on Friday.



Jobs to go: Tim Hayward announcing cuts yesterday

Ford warning on payout as 4th quarter loss looms

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

FORD Motor Company, which last year paid £1.2 billion for Jaguar, warned that this year's dividend may not be secure, and that it will make a loss in the final three months of this year.

America's second largest car maker also said yesterday that about 3,850 white collar jobs in the United States will be lost by attrition next year.

The news wiped almost \$500 million off the company's New York Stock Exchange value as the share plunged \$1 to \$27.50, giving it a price tag of \$12 billion.

Ford paid a \$3 dividend last year - almost double the payout of 1987 - which cost more than \$1.4 billion and gave its shares a yield of more than 10.8 per cent.

But after the formal year-end statement at a breakfast meeting in Detroit yesterday, Philip E. Benton, president of Ford, told reporters that he

could not say Ford's dividend payout was secure this year. In the first nine months of the car company, which sells more cars in Britain than any other, made \$1.4 billion profits.

Even after losses in the fourth quarter, Harold Poling, Ford chairman, said the company will be profitable for the full year.

Ford says the outcome of the Middle East situation will have a great bearing on an American economy already softening as the price of crude oil has soared.

"We face escalating foreign competition, ever increasing customer expectations and an explosion of environmental issues," Mr Poling said.

He added: "We believe the economy is already experiencing a recession. We see continued weakness in the first half of next year followed by moderate recovery."

Ford, whose American car

and truck market share was 22.3 per cent last year, expects sales of cars and trucks in the United States to drop 5 per cent next year to 13.5 million.

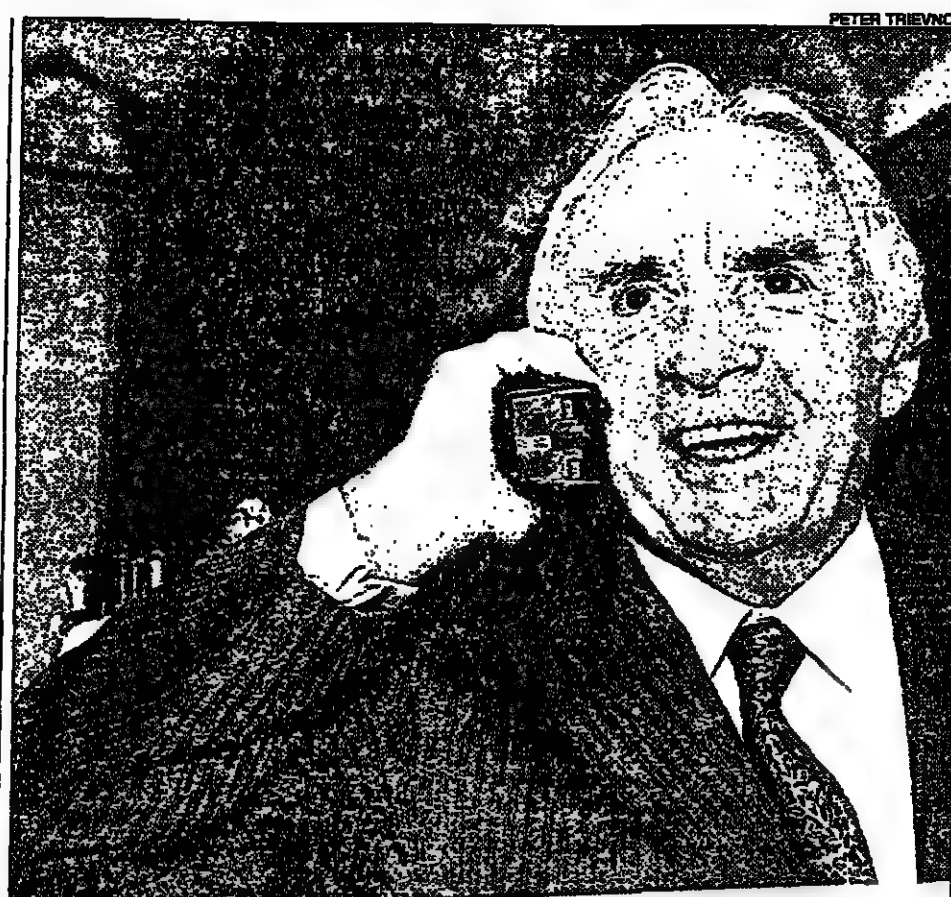
Mr Poling said: "Competition in the automotive segment will continue to be brutal."

He expects production of Japanese cars to rise by 60 per cent to 2.4 million by 1992, compounding the excess capacity in the industry.

There are already 8.4 million more cars being made in the world than there are customers to buy them.

Earlier this year, Mr Poling said Europe offered the best opportunities for expansion.

Ford said it will continue to focus on cars, trucks and its expanded financial services operations, which provide \$2 million a day to the bottom line and contributed 42 per cent to Ford's earnings in the first nine months of this year.



RACAL

Upwardly mobile profits: Sir Ernest Harrison announcing Racal results yesterday

Racal Telecom payout up 248% as profit soars

By MATTHEW BOND

RACAL Telecom, the larger of the two mobile telephone networks, has reported a 63 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £122 million in the 28 weeks to October 12.

Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman, said the results were excellent. He added: "All the company's business is performing well and the results for the full year will be good."

The interim dividend has been raised 248 per cent to 2.6p (0.7475p).

He admitted, however, that

Racal Vodafone was being affected by the slowdown in the British economy. During the half year, new subscribers had arrived at the rate of 14,000 a month, but in the past two months the rate had slowed to 10,000. The so-called "churn rate" - the percentage of subscribers who stop using the service - had increased from 18 to 18.5 per cent.

In addition, the average size of each customer's annual bill fell, from £800 to £750. Sir Ernest was optimistic that this trend had bottomed out.

Racal Telecom shares dropped 7p to 252p, as analysts downgraded full-year forecasts.

Shares in Racal Electronics fell 10p to 174p. This was partly in sympathy and partly because an 18.1 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £97 million disguised losses at the group data communications and defence electronics divisions. The interim dividend rose to 1.05p (0.95p).

Last month, Racal Electronics revealed plans for a drastic

restructuring. Sir Ernest, who chairs both companies, announced that Racal Electronics' 80 per cent stake in Racal Telecom was to be demerged, as was its 100 per cent interest in Racal-Chubb, the security business. The remaining electronics businesses would be taken private in a management buyout led by Sir Ernest.

He said buyout plans would not be put before shareholders until June, after the demergers had been completed. The interval would provide a period for the stock market to place a value on the businesses that Sir Ernest's team hopes to buy.

He said it had not been decided whether Racal Electronics' potentially lucrative government data network would be "sold" to Racal Telecom, or form part of the business bought by Sir Ernest's team. "There is a good case that perhaps it should go to Telecom," Sir Ernest said. "We're discussing it."

Comment, page 29

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German banks move out of 1934

By NEIL BENNETT

IN THE aftermath of the tumultuous monetary and political union Germany's bankers have started to transform the population of the former German Democratic Republic into financial sophisticates.

Today, the annual assembly of the German Savings Banks' Association will welcome a new member. The East Germany Association joins knowing it will take years and massive investment before it can compare with Western counterparts.

The 196 savings banks in the GDR were central to the country's economy. They held more than 90 per cent of retail savings in 23 million accounts. Despite this, the bankers had little control over their business. By law they could offer only two types of account, both of which carried interest of 3 1/2 per cent. Almost all

the state, leaving them with no investment capital.

"It came to the point when being a banker was no longer respected," said Rainer Voigt, president of the East German Savings Banks' Association.

"Forty per cent of our equipment was over 20 years old. As a director I was lucky to have an adding machine from 1934."

Many people believed that the banks passed information to the Stasi, the security police. The bankers insist this did not happen.

Ninety-eight per cent of the banks' employees were female, since the average wage of DM1,000 a month was half the rate for manual work.

Since monetary union in July, the banks have hummed with activity. The German government has invested DM4 million in the banks, which is being used

chimes and facelifts for the grim interiors. The West German banks are providing training and advice.

Despite the work, the market share of the savings banks is slipping as Deutsche and Dresdner Banks advance on their traditional business. Deposits have fallen to DM81 billion, an 80 per cent market share.

The decline is slower than feared, however, due to the conservative behaviour of the East German saver. Little old ladies still queue at their bank each week to be shown their money laid out on the counter.

The Savings Banks' Association has launched a series of 20-minute adverts to educate the population.

Right now the queues, lack of equipment and slow service are still frustrating customers, "but that's a market economy for you," shrugged one East German

Iranians seek to restore Opec's quotas

By MARTIN BARROW

IRAN is leading efforts to secure a firm commitment from Opec to restore oil production quotas, which were temporarily suspended in response to the economic embargo of Iraq and Kuwait.

Opec members meeting in Vienna for the bi-annual conference, which began yesterday, fear the world could be "awash with oil" once the Gulf confrontation is resolved, according to Sadek Bousseina, Opec president and oil minister of Nigeria. A consequence of overproduction would be a dramatic fall in the oil price to below the pre-invasion level of \$18 a barrel.

In his opening address, Mr Bousseina said oil consumers had left open the possibility of an oil glut by refusing to draw down oil stocks, which now cover 98 days of forward consumption. Following the suspension of quotas in September, Opec production has risen more quickly than expected and now stands at 22.9 million barrels per day, making good the loss of 4.5 million bpd from Iraq and Kuwait.

Mr Bousseina reaffirmed Opec's intention to return to output levels of 22.5 million bpd if a peaceful solution is found. But Iran is believed to be seeking support for a formal declaration by the cartel to restore quotas, possibly before the end of the Gulf tension.

However, energy analysts believe the Vienna meeting is unlikely to yield concrete measures. Steve Turner, an analyst at Smith New Court in London, said: "Iran has less than a 10 per cent chance of securing any undertaking by Opec members now to restore quotas."

"Members will be reluctant to make any firm undertaking before knowing what the political map of Opec looks like once the situation in the Middle East settles down."

A pivotal role is held by Saudi Arabia, which has increased output from its official quota of 5.3 million bpd to 7.6 million bpd. The Saudis are unlikely to curtail production if Saddam Hussein emerges in a position of strength and with Iraq's military power intact.

"Oil markets gave a muted response to Opec's meeting yesterday. In London, January Brent slipped 55 cents to \$26.45 a barrel, touching \$26.05 in early trading."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

If, however, the shareholder's majority decided to open up Continental to outside control, the existing voting right restrictions should be cancelled immediately and the management board should be instructed to come to an agreement with Pirelli.

PROFITS at Fuller, Smith & Turner, the West London brewer, have been boosted by Classic Ales, the beer wholesaler it acquired in January. Pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September rose by 11 per cent to £43.3 million on sales up 18 per cent to £34 million. Earnings per share rose 12 per cent to 11.54p and the interim dividend is 2.1p, an increase of 13 per cent. Beer volumes increased by 8 per cent.

The 44 pubs purchased from Allied-Lyons for £9 million did not come on stream until October and made no contribution to half-year profits but Anthony Fuller, the group's chairman, said they were trading well and he was optimistic about their potential. "There are currently many opportunities available to acquire further pubs. We are actively looking at the possibility of purchasing more but only at the right price," he said.

and chief executive, said continued investment in continental Europe has brought the company major new clients in retail, financial services and leisure markets.

Mr Fitch said: "We expect the difficult UK trading conditions experienced this year to continue. However, we have aggressively attacked our cost base and are confident that our mix of creative and strategic skills will continue to be in demand worldwide."

The report says that if the improvements suggested are not implemented, then "London, and indeed the UK, will slip down the rankings order of the world

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (¢)	Yearly change (¢)	Daily change (US\$)	Yearly change (US\$)
The World	583.7	0.1	-30.8	0.3	-21.9	0.0	-16.0
(free)	111.8	0	-30.8	0.2	-21.9	0.0	-16.0
EAFFE	1018.0	0	-34.6	0.2	-29.3	0.0	-21.0
(free)	104.5	0	-34.6	0	-29.5	0.0	-21.0
Europe	519.4	-0.2	-18.6	0.0	-17.2	-0.2	-7.1
(free)	134.1	-0.2	-18.0	-0.3	-15.8	-0.2	-7.1
Nth America	414.4	0.1	-23.0	0.1	-7.1	0.0	-0.0
Nordic	1126.8	-1.0	-27.6	-0.6	-22.6	-1.0	-12.0
(free)	185.1	-1.0	-21.3	-0.6	-18.4	-1.0	-5.5
Pacific	3233.5	0.2	-43.7	0.3	-37.3	0.1	-32.0
For East	2239.0	0.2	-44.0	0.3	-38.1	0.1	-32.0
Asia	334.5	0.3	-32.5	0.1	-16.2	0.2	18.0
Austria	1407.2	-1.4	-5.3	-0.9	-0.2	-1.4	-14.0
Belgium	725.0	-1.1	-28.4	0.0	-23.6	-1.2	-11.0
Denmark	418.7	-0.2	-30.1	0.0	-15.6	-0.2	-15.0
Canada	1108.8	-0.3	-15.8	0.0	-12.3	-0.3	-1.0
Finland	67.2	-1.0	-41.7	-0.6	-39.0	-1.1	-29.0
(free)	89.4	-2.4	-40.0	-2.1	-38.8	-2.5	-27.0
France	827.2	0.2	-22.4	0.1	-18.2	-0.2	-6.0
Germany	760.7	1.3	-18.2	1.7	-13.8	1.3	-1.0
Hong Kong	2000.1	0.3	-8.8	0.3	-0.2	0.3	8.8
Italy	267.1	0	-30.7	0.3	-26.6	0.0	-16.0
Japan	3397.7	0.2	-44.9	0.3	-39.2	0.1	-33.0
Netherlands	734.8	-0.2	-22.3	0.0	-18.2	-0.3	-6.0
New Zealand	53.5	-1.8	-47.7	-1.7	-37.6	-1.8	-37.0
Norway	131.9	-1.3	-15.7	-1.0	-10.7	-1.4	-1.0
(free)	199.5	-1.2	-15.0	-0.8	-10.0	-1.3	-2.0
Spain	1474.6	1.8	-26.1	1.7	-19.7	1.7	-10.0
Sweden	1185.2	-0.4	-25.0	-0.4	-22.0	-0.5	-9.0
(free)	174.1	-1.4	-32.2	-0.8	-26.5	-1.2	-18.0
Switzerland	733.2	0.0	-18.9	1.1	-22.1	-1.5	-13.0
(free)	111.5	0.0	-19.1	0.2	-20.9	0.0	-3.0
UK	643.0	-0.6	-10.8	-0.6	-11.0	-0.7	-7.0
USA	376.3	0.1	-22.3	0.0	-18.2	0.0	-18.0

Cherry picks his assets clean

COMMENT

Alan Cherry, chairman of Countryside, the highly regarded housebuilder-cum-developer, makes no bones about 1990. It has been, he says simply, the worst trading period ever experienced by the group. That speaks volumes. For Mr Cherry was one of the case-hardened band of builders which survived the crash of 1974, when the Bank of England was obliged to launch a massive lifeline to rescue numerous fringe banks and property companies. Countryside never needed to board the lifeboat, but the lessons learned in pulling through several years of terrible housing markets have left the group among the most conservative in the sector.

But for that past conservatism, last year might have damaged Countryside a good deal more than merely an £8 million plunge into the red. Even so the wounds look substantial. Borrowings have surged from £42 million at the end of September last year to £89 million at the end of the latest trading period. Countryside has several sizeable commercial developments complete or nearly so. In normal market

conditions these would have been sold. But Cherry can hardly be blamed for wanting to wait for more normal conditions and yields. The delay means a stretched balance sheet with £89 million of borrowings, plus £22 million of off-balance-sheet debt, supported by net assets of £52 million. Countryside's residential side has been deliberately held back pending a return to more active markets.

The group sees little to be gained from the profitless prosperity of volume sales while prices are depressed. Its land bank of 2,600 plots with planning permission and 7,600 owned conditionally or under option are mostly in excellent home counties locations and will produce handsome profits in normal financial and market conditions.

Unlike some companies who perhaps could not afford the luxury, Countryside has opted for a ruthless scrutiny of its

balance sheet and provided £14 million against the reduced values of its properties and land holdings. This has not helped gearing, but gives a clean balance sheet showing net assets of 144p per share against a share price of 89p unchanged on the day.

The unchanged final dividend, paid from reserves, is an indication of boardroom confidence that the worst is over. A return to recent levels of profitability, which the board says is likely, would see Countryside shares a great deal higher.

Racal doubts

Racal's guiding light, Sir Ernest Harrison, is once again in the familiar position of having to persuade

the City that he knows best. The interim figures from Racal Telecom, the spectacularly successful Vodafone operator, and Racal Electronics left analysts feeling disappointed at lack of fresh information on Sir Ernest's radical restructuring proposals.

Details of the three-way split of Racal Electronics will not emerge until June. In outline they are simple, involving a demerger of RE's 80 per cent holding in RT by way of a free issue of shares, a similar hand-out of shares in Racal Chubb, the group's security interests, and a management buyout of the remaining electronics businesses. But the delay coupled with a drip feed of selling from US holders of RE is hardly an encouragement for fund managers here to add to holdings. The further downside worry is that continuing US sales

will not be absorbed in London pending hard news on the demerger.

Hello again

Hey presto, Britain's vanishing invisibles have, as if by magic, reappeared once again in time for Christmas. And it appears from the Central Statistical Office's detailed balance of payments data that we have none other than Saddam Hussein to thank for boosting the value of stocks held by British oil companies. This gift from the East is unlikely to find its way to us too often, and the underlying deterioration of the invisibles picture looks set to persist until interest rates start to come down in earnest. The last cut in base rate was obtained at the cost of entering the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System. Norman Lamont's hands are therefore

tied when it comes to monetary easing. The timely revision of the invisibles balance to show a modest monthly surplus of about £100 million in the third quarter contains no guarantees as to the current quarter, or next year. The CSO is still left to make its own judgement about projections for the months ahead. If it considers the Gulf effect to have distorted the last quarter, it could well decide to have the once handsome invisibles surplus vanish again in the fourth quarter. Think that just two Chancellors ago, the official view was that invisibles would be our salvation, not visible trade.

A possible ray of light to emerge from the provisional third-quarter data was the huge leap in overseas direct investment in Britain, while UK investors sharply drew in their horns abroad. The net direct investment of £4.82 billion, added to City expectations of more of the same this quarter, suggest that Britain could this year return to net inflows for the first time since currency controls were abolished. Somebody out there finds us attractive.

British truck industry faces a long haul back



Competitive, but ERF still has to make a European market

BRITAIN'S truck builders are having their bumpiest ride for a decade. While car production is growing under the impetus of Japanese "transplant" factories and rising exports, truck companies have been backed into a corner by a 30.3 per cent slump in sales in the 11 months to end-November.

The most astonishing feature is the speed and scale of the decline in the domestic industry, and its failure to develop a front-rank European presence.

In 1969, United Kingdom builders turned out 199,335 heavy goods vehicles, according to the trade department.

So far this year, figures compiled by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show that just 27,468 British-built trucks over three-and-a-half tonnes were registered in the UK, 29.1 per cent down on the same months of 1989.

Redundancies, extended holidays and short-time working are becoming commonplace.

Nine companies are still building trucks in Britain. It is a market dominated by two multinationals: Leyland DAF, the Anglo-Dutch concern, and Iveco Ford, a joint venture between Fiat, of Italy, and Ford, of America. Both are firmly committed to the manufacture of a full range of trucks in Britain. The rest, to a greater or lesser extent, are niche players.

Imports, at 18,717 vehicles, have taken 40.5 per cent of the market so far this year. Domestic manufacturers have made only minor gains in market share, and achieved only modest increases in exports.

Those within the industry point to two causal trends, one historic, the other contemporary. As a rough and ready rule of thumb, they say, developed countries buy 1,000 new trucks every year for every million of population. The UK market is thus reckoned to average about 55,000 vehicles a year.

Throughout the Sixties and Seventies, UK output exceeded 100,000 vehicles every year. In 1981 it plummeted to 58,207, and has shown a

gentle downturn ever since. In its glory days, the UK truck industry was sustained by sales to the Commonwealth countries. They bought simple, reliable, light and medium-weight trucks, but European demands became more sophisticated, and Japanese manufacturers, offering cruder vehicles, gained ascendancy in the third world.

As continental markets grew, Ford and Bedford, the British truck company owned by General Motors of America, were largely shut. European truck buyers are notoriously nationalistic, with the exception of Britain, the most competitive market in Europe.

The earlier development of dual-carriageway roads on the Continent led to the evolution of heavier, more powerful vehicles. When British roads were upgraded, operators of heavy trucks found Continental vehicles, working below their designed payloads, were generally more comfortable, powerful and reliable than up-graded British models. The trend was reinforced by the growth of international trucking: the availability of Europe-wide dealer networks became essential as lorries rumbled all the way out to the Middle East.

Ford and Leyland even-

tually secured the necessary economies of scale and dealer networks through international alliances. General Motors gave up the struggle and sold out to AWD, a specialist manufacturer of rough-terrain vehicles.

The smaller UK manufacturers are specialists. Many have overseas parents. Dennis makes fire engines; Foden and Seddon Atkinson produce custom-made trucks.

Renault Truck Industries concentrates on simple, robust vehicles for local authorities. ERF, the largest wholly British manufacturer, which concentrates on heavy trucks, has developed competitive products, but faces a long haul in building a European presence from a modest British base.

After half a decade of strong sales, the age of the average British truck is the lowest in Europe. Modern trucks, the manufacturers say, are more powerful and more durable.

In a recession, accompanied by high interest rates, operators can defer purchases for a year or two without adding significantly to their maintenance costs. The peaks and troughs of a traditionally cyclical industry have been widened by technological change.

The way ahead is unclear. Leyland DAF and Ford have increased their market share in Britain, partly because they supply a full range of vehicles, and sales of lighter trucks have fallen less heavily. Smaller manufacturers must grit their teeth and hope to have the right models ready when sales pick up again.

The Japanese appear to have missed their chance. With the exception of Germany, every European truck market is now in decline. Meanwhile, continental European and Scandinavian manufacturers have used their hitherto strong home bases to conquer North American markets and achieve world scale economies.

British output should start to rise again in 1992, as European trade barriers crumble, but winning wider sales will be a long haul.

ROSS TIEMAN
Industrial Correspondent

The only way for Carlton is up

TEMPUS

Video and sound products saw some inevitable margin reduction after the first full-year contribution from various acquisitions.

Current trading is clearly tough, and Carlton cannot hope for much more than £130 million pre-tax this year. The shares, up some 60p from their year's low and 2p ahead at 36p, change hands on little more than eight times' earnings. Carlton's plans for an ITV franchise remain an uncertainty, but it is now hard to see what knocked them from their near-£9 peak a year ago; long-term, the only way is up.

Compass

COMPASS Group's £97 million bid for Sketchley this year shocked the shares into an overnight fall of 65p to 305p, but the company pulled out and salvaged its reputation for sound management.

The shares have recovered — they climbed 12p to 360p yesterday — but have further to go as the company's defensive qualities shine through. Annual profits up 17.5 per

cent to £29.5 million and earnings up 16.6 per cent to 28.8p a share look formidable in the current climate. The total dividend rises 15 per cent to 10.35p a share, with a 6.9p final.

Further corporate activity seems unlikely following the contract awarded by British Telecom that will add £60 million to annual turnover.

Margins are advancing and cashflow is strong at £28.9 million, against £20.8 million. The interest charge, up £2.1 million to £8.9 million, was covered more than four times. Profits of £34 million and earnings of 33p are possible this year. Few other companies can still expect comparable growth and the shares, on a prospective p/e of less than 11, look good value.

Bank of Scotland

BANK analysts, who have struggled all year to keep pace with the decline in their sector, slashed between £10 million and £15 million off their full-year forecasts for Bank of Scotland in response

to the not wholly unpredictable revelation that "the present unfavourable climate will have an adverse effect on the group's provisioning requirements in the second half".

The consensus forecast of about £200 million represents a 6 per cent decline in pre-tax profits before less-developed country (LDC) debt provisions. Although disappointing, this is vastly superior to what can be expected from most of its English competitors.

Bank of Scotland has few overseas operations and almost no investment banking activities. It has fully provided for its LDC exposure and still has almost half its business in Scotland, where the recession has had less impact.

The £100 million of fresh capital being raised through the preference share issue also gives the bank one of the strongest tier-one capital ratios in the sector. Priced at a sector premium prospective p/e of 7.1, the shares are not cheap but should provide a safer home than most bank stocks. In today's climate, however, that is not saying much.

Severn Trent Interim Results

For the six months ended 30 September 1990

- Operating Profit £108 million, up 16.1%
- Profit before Tax £135 million, up 145%
- Core business operating costs up only 4%
- Higher quality standards achieved
- Earnings per share 36.2p, up 16%
- Interim Dividend 5.85p per share

	1990	1989
Turnover	£313m	£274m
Operating Profit	£108m	£93m
Profit before tax	£135m	£55m
Earnings per share	36.2p	—
Dividend per share	5.85p	—

'Our top priority in the interests of shareholders and customers is to continue the improvement of drinking water quality, effluent quality and standards of service.'

Severn Trent
ST

These results are unaudited. A copy of the interim report will be posted to shareholders and may be obtained from: The Director of Corporate Communications, Severn Trent PLC, 2297 Coventry Road, Birmingham B26 3PU

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

Hold the line — on remote

DO NOT be surprised if fewer Christmas cards drop through the letterbox this year. Extracting an address from British Telecom directory enquiries on the pretext of checking the telephone number is becoming harder. Of the 30 seconds it takes to obtain a number, only about 10 are spent connected to a real live person. Paddy Turnbull, BT's contracts manager for Northern Ireland, says: "Directory enquiries is a £200 million year business with an annual growth of 12 per cent. This time of year is chaotic as people try to check out their Christmas card list." The opening of a directory enquiries office at Portadown at the end of last year makes that ruse harder. The Portadown exchange takes overflow calls from elsewhere in Britain. That cheery operator greeting you is only a recording at that stage the operator is still dealing with the previous caller. And as soon as she finds your request, she routes you into a computer in Leeds which gives out the number. It cuts six to seven seconds off the start of the call and ten to 11 seconds off the end. Turnbull says: "This has not meant job losses elsewhere. These are calls that would have gone unanswered. Directory enquiries are now answered in under five seconds and the number given out within 30 seconds. Previously we were

taking 15 seconds to answer and that didn't take account of engaged calls." Portadown handles a million calls a month. Another seven operator positions have just been created to allow additional traffic to be diverted there.

To a degree

FORGET those jokes about the Irish Academic qualifications may be an embarrassment in Northern Ireland, but only because too many people have them. The new year resolution at the Industrial Development Board is to create 4,000 jobs in computer software to stop the brain drain. The two universities, Queen's and the University of Ulster, are turning out 300 information technology graduates each year. Add in students combining computer studies with maths or business and the total reaches 500. Dr John

Hughes, head of the computer department at the University of Ulster, with 80 staff, says: "There are no jobs here for 60 per cent of IT graduates." Tales of overqualified job applicants for other types of work abound. A government department advertising for 30 staff with a few GCSEs received 1,200 applications. All those appointed had degrees. An insurance company with four vacancies had 4,000 applicants, all suitably qualified. British Telecom, second biggest employer in Northern Ireland with 4,000 pay packets, reckons six applicants per post advertised is the norm. Dr Chris Hendy, director of Harris Laboratories, says: "The biggest problem we have got is turning people away. We wanted three high-grade managers. A small advertisement produced 160 applicants and 90 of them could have done the job."

the Amstrad machines and between us we have sorted out the problems."

WHAT weighs five tons and arrives every week? The 16 million social security counter-foils that are sent across the Irish Sea for processing. In spite of the volume involved, the Department of Social Security reckons it still works out cheaper than processing the forms in England. Residents in Lisahally, near Londonderry, are not complaining about the inflow. It has created 200 jobs for them in an area of high unemployment.

Peacock socks

WOMEN are supposed to be the fancy dressers, men dull and straightforward. Not so when it comes to filling stockings. John Monteith, deputy managing director of the Berkshire Hosiery factory at Newbury, explains: "There is little to do with ladies' tights. There are seven different deniers and you can add a bit of fancy lace but basically it is a very simple product. Not so with men. You have different yarns, colours and textures. I have 20 different types of machines to produce men's socks." Men do have the advantage, however, of spreading their purchases throughout the year. Women buy 70 per cent of their stockings and tights between September and March.

RODNEY HOBSON

Fax an earner

THOSE highly advertised fax machines from Amstrad are proving a nice little earner for two industrial neighbours at Newtonabbey. Circaprint makes circuit boards at £10 a time and passes them through the fence to the STC factory where fax machines are assembled. Tom Creaney, Circaprint's general manager in Northern Ireland, says proudly: "Amstrad had been bringing fax machines in from the Far East but was not satisfied with the standard. STC completely retooled for



Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gains or Loss
1	Domino	Electronics	
2	Sema Gp	Electronics	
3	Water	Property	
4	Water	Water	
5	Water	Water	
6	Water	Water	
7	Water	Water	
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45	Water	Water	
46	Water	Water	
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50	Water	Water	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Total

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mr Steven Brown, of Luton, Beds.

BRITISH FUNDS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol

SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol

UNDATED						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol

INDEX-LINKED						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol

ELECTRICALS						
High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Nervous trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 10. Dealings end December 28. Contango day December 31. Settlement day January 7. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 20)

1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

BREWERIES							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

BUILDING, ROADS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

ELECTRICITY							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

FINANCE, LAND							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

FINANCIAL TRUSTS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

FOODS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

DRAPERY, STORES							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

HOTELS, CATERERS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

INDUSTRIALS A-D							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

E-K							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

L-N							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

O-P							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

Q-R							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

S-Z							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

OVERSEAS TRADERS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

PROPERTY							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

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TOBACCO							
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1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
1990							

OVERSEAS TRADERS							
1990	High	Low	Open	Close	Change	%	Vol
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS							
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Chancery
Fool

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES OTHER STERLING RATES

Range	Close	1 month	3 month	Australia dollar	2.5319
Bahrain dinar					

TES
07552
06366
... n/a
01800
2-0.83
9-6.95
000.60
1.1813
35.35
... n/a
12364
4-5795
12330
... n/a
13300
17701
18867
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ed by

Ireland	1.8015-1.8030	Denmark	5.6650-5.6700	Italy	1112.5
	1.8128-1.8138	Germany	1.4785-1.4793	Republic of China	80

114.5
30.62
8030
30.55
94.45
10.98

Base Rates %: Clearing Banks 14 France Has 14 **EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %**

10-7%
 4-9%
 12-16
 1-5%
 5%+

High: \$372.15-372.65 Low: \$370.90-371.40

Open	High	Low	Close	Vol	Open	High	Low	Close
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Vol
1621
89
6347
3421
7311
30
7768
4482
54
8984
8847
349

LONDON FOX

Vol
8325
8200
0400
8125
0625
5734

17.46
1.81

0.5
7.25
2.11
80.3
9.54
1.92

THIRD MARKET

[illegible]

MASTERLOCK

Chancery Division

Law Report December 13 1990

Chancery Division

Footballer's tax benefit scheme fails Option is conditional sale contract

O'Leary v McKilay (Inspector of Taxes)
Before Mr Justice Vinelott
[Judgment December 7]

A professional footballer's scheme to receive an annual sum from his club in a tax efficient manner failed in its objective. The sum, income that was never remitted to the United Kingdom, derived from a loan by the club to Jersey trustees and held for the footballer's benefit, was an emolument of his employment chargeable to tax.

Mr Justice Vinelott so held in the Chancery Division in dismissing an appeal by the taxpayer, Mr David O'Leary, from a determination of a special commissioner upholding in principle assessments to Schedule E income tax for the years 1979-80 to 1986-87.

The taxpayer, employed as a professional footballer by Arsenal Football Club, was resident in the United Kingdom but domiciled in Ireland. In 1979 the club had agreed to participate in a scheme suggested by the taxpayer designed to give him an additional payment of some £29,000 a year that was not liable to United Kingdom tax.

The arrangement was for the club to lend free of interest, repayable on demand, the sum of £266,000 to the trustees of a Jersey settlement for the taxpayer's benefit. The loan money was put on deposit at interest by the trustees.

It was a tax avoidance scheme, it being considered by the taxpayer that by virtue of section 109 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 and Case V of Schedule D, the income from the loan was, so long as it was not remitted to the United Kingdom, free of income tax.

Mr Michael Flesch, QC and Mr Philip Baker for the taxpayer, and Mr Andrew Thornhill, QC, for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that the Crown's case, accepted by the commissioner, was that the income was taxable as an emolument of the taxpayer's employment by the club under Case I of Schedule E.

Mr Flesch submitted that a proper understanding of the structure of income tax law compelled the conclusion that, apart from the provisions of section 66 of the Finance Act 1976, if an employer lent money to an employee the employee was only taxable if, and to the extent that, a quantifiable benefit was conferred on him.

Any income the taxpayer then derived from investing the money lent to him was taxable under Schedule E because as the loan was repayable on demand there was no quantifiable benefit on which tax could be exacted.

The growing practice whereby employers lent money, interest

free or at a favourable rate, to employees for the purpose of the source of the money and the taxpayer was assessable to tax under Schedule E from the benefit to him of having a loan on those terms. But if the loan was repayable on demand that benefit could not be quantified to form the basis of a Schedule E assessment.

By contrast, if an employer was to lend money to an employee on terms that interest would be paid to the employee until the loan was repaid, that interest would be an emolument of the employee's employment; so also if an employer lent money to an employee free of interest but on terms that the employee would deposit with a bank and charged as security for the repayment of the loan on demand. The benefit to the employee would be the interest earned on the deposit and nothing else.

If that was right, then in the instant case, *a fortiori*, the taxpayer never had the free disposal of the £266,000. The purpose and effect of the arrangement was to provide the taxpayer with the income derived from the investment of £266,000 for so long as he continued to be employed by the club.

The money could not be otherwise invested without the club's consent and if it had been the income would equally have been an emolument of his employment.

Solicitors: Herbert Reeves & Co; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

any income; the employer was the source of the money and the taxpayer was assessable to tax under Schedule E from the benefit to him of having a loan on those terms. But if the loan was repayable on demand that benefit could not be quantified to form the basis of a Schedule E assessment.

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Solicitors: Herbert Reeves & Co; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Spiro v Glencon Properties Ltd and Another
Before Mr Justice Hoffmann
[Judgment November 27]

An option to buy land could properly be described as a contract for the sale of that land conditional upon the exercise of the option. Section 2 of the Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989 placed no obstacle in the way of construing the grant of the option as a contract for the sale of the land, its purpose being to prescribe the formalities for recording the consent of the parties.

MR JUSTICE HOFFMANN so held in the Chancery Division in judgment for the plaintiff vendor, Trevor David Spiro, in his action against the defendant purchasers, Glencon Properties Ltd and Benney Berry, for breach of a contract by the purchasers to buy land following the exercise of an option to buy and failure to complete.

Miss Beverly Ann Rogers for the plaintiff Mr Michael Douglas for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE HOFFMANN said that the plaintiff vendor had granted an option to the purchaser to buy a property which was exercisable by notice in writing delivered to the vendor or his solicitors later the same day. The option was exercised within the stipulated time but the purchaser failed to complete.

The vendor rescinded the contract and obtained judgment against the purchaser in default of defence.

There was now before the court a summons by the vendor for judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court against the second defendant, a guarantor of the purchaser's obligations. There was also a summons by the purchaser to have the judgment against it set aside. The parties had agreed to treat the hearing as the trial of the action.

The question was whether the contract on which the vendor relied was within section 2 of the 1989 Act, requiring a contract "for the sale of an interest in land" to be made in writing and to incorporate all the terms which the parties had expressly agreed in one document, or, where the contracts were exchanged, in each of the documents.

The agreement was executed in two exchanged parts, each of which incorporated all the terms which had been agreed, and had been signed by or on behalf of the vendor and purchaser respectively.

But the notice exercising the option was of course only signed by the purchaser and not on behalf of the purchaser. If the contract was made by that document, it did not comply with section 2.

It seemed plain enough that section 2 was intended to apply to the agreement which created the option and not to the notice by which it was exercised.

Section 2, which replaced section 40 of the Law of Property Act 1925, was intended to prevent disputes over whether the parties had entered into a binding agreement or over what terms they had agreed. It prescribed the formalities for recording their mutual consent.

But only the grant of the option depended on consent. The exercise of the option was a unilateral act. It would destroy the very purpose of the option if the purchaser had to obtain the vendor's counter-signature to the notice by which it was exercised.

The language of section 2 placed no obstacle in the way of construing the grant of the option as the relevant contract. An option to buy land could properly be described as a contract for the sale of that land conditional upon the exercise of the option.

The purchaser, however, had submitted that an option had to be characterised as an irrevocable offer which could not be accepted by the vendor until he had exercised the option.

For the purchaser, strong reliance had been placed on *United Scientific Holdings Ltd v Burnley Borough Council* (1978) AC 904 as authority for the universal application of the irrevocable offer characterisation. That case concerned the rule that the conditions for the exercise of an option, including any time stipulations, had to be strictly complied with.

The rule had been developed by analogy with the rule that an ordinary offer could only be accepted by strict compliance with the conditions which it laid down. The Court of Appeal had extended the analogy to a notice under a rent review clause in a lease.

In their Lordships' view, there was nothing in the authorities preventing him from giving section 2 of the 1989 Act the meaning he considered to have been the clear intention of the legislature. The purposive approach taken in cases like *Rothwell v British Trusts* (1990) 1 All ER 360 encouraged him to adopt a similar approach to section 2.

The plain purpose of section 2 was, as already said, to prescribe the formalities for recording the consent of the parties. It followed that in his Lordship's view, the grant of the option was the only "contract for the sale of an interest in land" within the meaning of the section and the contract duly complied with the statutory requirements.

There would be judgment for the vendor against both defendants with costs.

Solicitors: Demion Hall Burgin & Warrens; Paul Shrank & Co.

Both aspects of character relevant

Regina v Williams
Before Lord Justice Goff, Mr Justice Goff and Mr Justice Goff
[Judgment December 3]

In any case in which a direction was given to a jury on the good character of an accused, it would be sensible for the judge to refer to both aspects of its significance, not only that it went mainly to the accused's credibility if he gave evidence, but also as a factor that would fortify a submission that because he had lived for many years with a good character he was less likely to have committed the crime of which he was accused: see *R v Berrada* (The Times February 20, 1989; (1990) 91 Cr App R 131) and *R v Coker* (The Times March 15, 1990; (1990) 91 Cr App R 125).

The Court of Appeal so stated when allowing appeal by Graham George Williams and quashing his conviction on September 22, 1989 in Cardiff Crown Court (Mr Recorder R. J. L. Thomas, QC and a jury) of two counts of theft on which, on October 9, 1989 he was sentenced to a total of 15 months imprisonment suspended for two years and ordered to pay a total of £1,066 compensation.

Mr Peter Jacobs, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr Keith G. Thomas for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE FARQUHARSON said that various directions had been given to the jury on the significance of good character, but lately there had been some development with regard to character directions.

Where the defendant had not given evidence and no evidence was given to refute or explain the charge, the judge was under no obligation to remind the jury of the defence case. Although it was often sensible to remind the jury of counsel's closing speech it was not mandatory to do so.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Farquharson, Mr Justice Goff and Mr Justice Goff) allowed appeal by Graham George Williams and quashed his conviction on September 22, 1989 in Cardiff Crown Court (Mr Recorder R. J. L. Thomas, QC and a jury) of two counts of theft on which, on October 9, 1989 he was sentenced to a total of 15 months imprisonment suspended for two years and ordered to pay a total of £1,066 compensation.

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least but the House of Lords held that that further extension was unjustified. They distinguished the ordinary option to purchase or to extend a lease from the activation of a rent review clause.

It had been rightly submitted that the House of Lords had endorsed the irrevocable offer analogy for ordinary options, but the endorsement was in the context of the rule that there must be strict compliance with the conditions of acceptance. The case was no authority for extending its application in a different context.

In his Lordship's view, there was nothing in the authorities preventing him from giving section 2 of the 1989 Act the meaning he considered to have been the clear intention of the legislature. The purposive approach taken in cases like *Rothwell v British Trusts* (1990) 1 All ER 360 encouraged him to adopt a similar approach to section 2.

The plain purpose of section 2 was, as already said, to prescribe the formalities for recording the consent of the parties. It followed that in his Lordship's view, the grant of the option was the only "contract for the sale of an interest in land" within the meaning of the section and the contract duly complied with the statutory requirements.

There would be judgment for the vendor against both defendants with costs.

Solicitors: Demion Hall Burgin & Warrens; Paul Shrank & Co.

on April 3, 1990 for conspiracy to steal, for which she was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

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THE TIMES

SPORT

Yorkshire refuse Jarvis's request to leave county

By MARTIN SEARBY

YORKSHIRE have refused a written request by Paul Jarvis, their fast bowler, to be released from his contract and will insist he fulfils the final summer of a four-year term. The decision was taken by the full general committee at Headingley yesterday at an emergency meeting.

"He has considerable ability and if he is used it for the benefit of himself and this club he would achieve the success he says he seeks," Brian Walsh, QC, the club chairman, said. He confirmed that the county received an official request yesterday following a verbal intimation from Jarvis that he wanted to leave.

Jarvis, aged 25, the youngest player to represent Yorkshire, was called before the cricket committee on Tuesday to answer questions about remarks made to the media concerning the county's refusal to sign an overseas player. After complicated negotiations neither side was willing to discuss what took place but it was clear that any attempt to reprimand him foundered in the presence of

his legal representative. The unanimous decision to retain a disaffected player was probably motivated by the county's slender bowling resources. In recent years, disaffected players have usually been allowed to leave.

"Happiness is a state of mind and there are always people who are unhappy from time to time," Walsh said. "Efforts will be made to make him change his mind because a fit and enthusiastic Paul Jarvis is clearly an asset to this club."

Bill Athey was allowed to leave to join Gloucestershire and John Hampshire to play for Derbyshire at the height of the Boycott controversy in the early part of the 1980s while both had time to serve under their contracts.

Jarvis said: "Obviously I wouldn't have asked to go if I was happy. I am disappointed at the decision but they have the power to keep me and that's that. Come April I shall turn up and give 100 per cent for Yorkshire, as I always have done, because I am a professional. We will have to see

what happens after that." Yorkshire's hopes of persuading the man who has topped their bowling averages in four of the last five seasons to stay would appear slim and, at his best, Jarvis is the sort of bowler who would be the envy of the other 16 counties not least because he still has to serve four years of a five-year England ban for touring South Africa, and would be regularly available for county cricket.

Jarvis feels too much of a burden has already been placed on his shoulders and can see little success ahead for the county unless they change an attitude which he has publicly described as "living in the Dark Ages."

He wants to join a county which has a deep-seated desire for success and is willing to give its team rather more chance of achieving it than he believes Yorkshire are. He has had already refused a two-year extension of his contract and, if he proves intractable, will be a loss to the county since he is the first real bowling talent to be unearthed since Chris Old made his debut in 1966.

However, creditable the youth schemes at the county's academy may be, it will be a number of years before any capable replacements emerge, with Yorkshire's bowling resources so thin, there would appear to be a number of lean summers ahead.

The other matter on the agenda was to discuss the academy at Bradford's Park Avenue ground and this has now been given charitable status.

One-day wonders, page 36



Staying put: Paul Jarvis, whose services are still required by Yorkshire

MCC continues search

AN MCC working party convenes today to discuss the candidates for the post of head cricket coach in the aftermath of the resignation of Don Wilson and Martin Robinson, his assistant, both now employed at Ampleforth College (Stephen Thorpe writes).

Li Colonel John Stephenson, the MCC secretary, said: "It is not an easy post to fill and we don't necessarily need another Don Wilson, which

would be a difficult proposition anyway. Everyone is his own man and the job may well be tailored to the individual."

The eventual choice will probably be a former Test player and fully qualified coach with a strong bowling background.

Chris Old, of Yorkshire and England, is under consideration, but attracting candidates of similar stature has proved problematical.

Thorburn selected as players' voice

By OWEN JENKINS

PAUL Thorburn sees his inclusion on the Welsh Rugby Union amateurism committee as a "step in the direction that everybody's been asking for". Thorburn has been chosen to represent the players on the committee, established following the relaxation of the amateur regulations.

He said: "My involvement will be to convey the ideas of the players to the committee and to see what can be obtained and what can't be. I would imagine that there will be some involvement on the marketing side with a company which has expertise in this matter."

Thorburn, who has emerged as the players' shop steward, said: "We are looking at possible endorsement ideas where we would pool together everything."

The amateur regulations were also the subject of a meeting between Dudley Wood, the Rugby Football Union secretary, and four members of the England squad late on Tuesday.

"No one seems to be sure what we can or can't do," Rob Andrew, the Wasps and England stand-off half, said, "or how each union will interpret the regulations."

Tottenham put up prices by £2

By DENNIS SIGBY

THE financial difficulties of Tottenham Hotspur were emphasised yesterday with the news that they are to increase their seat prices by £2 for non-club members, starting with the Barclays League fixture against Manchester United on New Year's Day. The rise comes despite an increase in their average attendance at White Hart Lane this season following the success of their players in the World Cup.

Tottenham, third in the first division behind Liverpool and Arsenal, blame the rises on "escalating match-day costs". For the game against United an East Stand ticket will cost £17, up from the £15 required for the visit of Luton Town on December 22, and non-members will pay £8 to stand,

CLUB CHARGES	
Highest priced seats	£
Arsenal	18.00
Aston Villa	10.00
Chelsea	20.00
Crystal Palace	20.00
Everton	8.50
Leeds	15.00
Liverpool	15.00
Man Utd	8.00
Tottenham	15.50
Wimbledon	16.00

against the present £7, an increase of more than 14 per cent.

Among the changes Tottenham announced "with regret" in the club programme last Saturday were: West Stand lower tier, £16; south stand, £13, both £2 increases. In addition, a 50p fee will be charged for telephone and postal bookings.

The price increases will come into effect the day after the annual general meeting of the club's parent company, Tottenham Hotspur plc. Shareholders have been warned that the year's figures will be "disappointing" and steps need to be taken to increase revenue and that players, although not Gascoigne or Lineker, may have to be sold.

Tottenham are still hoping to raise £13 million from a rights share issue underwritten by Robert Maxwell, the newspaper publisher and chairman of Derby County.

The average Tottenham attendance after nine League games at White Hart Lane this season is 32,840, compared with 26,433 last season. The success of Paul Gascoigne and Gary Lineker with the England team has meant that attendances have exceeded 30,000 at all but the matches against Wimbledon and Derby County. More than 35,000 watched the home game against Liverpool even though it was shown live on ITV.

FA's trial by video could condemn Webb

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Webb, who was sent off during England's B international in Algeria on Tuesday, could pay a heavier penalty than at first seemed likely. The Football Association is to study the video evidence and the verdict, which is expected to be announced before the end of the weekend, is unlikely to be lenient.

The film of the incident which led to his dismissal was shown during Sportsnight on BBC television last night. It illustrates that Webb, though scarcely guilty of "striking an opponent", the official reason given by the referee for his decision, could be accused of retaliation.

The victim of an illegitimately forceful tackle by Rahim, the Algerian who was also sent off, Webb reacted angrily. Although he restrained himself almost instantly, he is seen to raise his hands in a threatening manner and, under the FA's strict disciplinary code, his momentary loss of temper could have grave consequences.

Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, has contacted Peter Swales, the chairman, and further discussions involving the four councillors who were present in Algiers will probably take place tomorrow. Webb, only the seventh England international to be sent off, offered his version of events during the return journey. He claims that he is innocent.

Webb, sent off once before in his career, admitted that what happened in Algeria was the blackest moment of his career. "I've been in football a long time and I don't think I've been so disappointed," he said. "I'm not someone to go around striking people. It's not my style."

Ever since Webb damaged his Achilles tendon in the act

of shooting against Sweden in the World Cup qualifying tie in Stockholm 15 months ago, his career has regressed. From being an automatic choice for his country, he is now no longer considered a permanent fixture by the club.

Although he recovered sufficiently from his injury to be included in the World Cup squad last summer, his one abbreviated appearance represented no more than a token gesture. Bobby Robson brought him on as a substitute in the closing play-off game against Italy in Bari.

Since taking over from Robson, Taylor has consistently maintained his belief in Webb. He has picked him in all three of his England squads so far and, although he has not yet invited him to play a role even as a substitute, he indicated that his patience would be rewarded.

"After all that he has gone through, there had to be some light at the end of the tunnel," Taylor said yesterday. "Then, when I was away on holiday, I heard that he had been dropped by United. I decided that that wouldn't mean I should omit him from the B team."

Taylor, who has insisted that he should be consulted during the disciplinary procedure, extended his sympathy. Yet he is aware that, although there is no statutory policy, a precedent was set by the case which featured Tony Cottee after an under-21 game three years ago.

Considered guilty of lunging at an opponent in retaliation, he was subsequently suspended for three senior internationals. Although he was recalled after he had served his sentence, he was never again to be regarded as a genuine contender for a place in the England side.

Prophetic words from Taylor

By STUART JONES

AS GRAHAM Taylor sat in the Olympic stadium in Algiers, he warned that the England B squad's tale of woe was not necessarily over. Apart from holding the African champions to a goalless draw, he conceded that everything had gone wrong. "But we hadn't got home yet," he said.

Little could he have known then how prophetic his words were to be. The party which had struggled through blizzards to reach Luton on Sunday arrived back in the early hours of yesterday morning to find that the airport had been plunged into darkness.

For the second time in nine hours, the team was the victim of a power failure. The luggage and the kit had to be conveyed from the plane in trolleys and deposited in the lounge, where the 63 passengers groped around in an attempt to identify their property.

The furc was complete. The trip had started in white noise, finished in blackness and almost every adverse weather had been experienced in between. As well as persistent torrential rain, the wind was so wild on Tuesday afternoon that it would have been no surprise to hear that a hurricane was about to strike.

As if the circumstances were not extraordinary enough, the fixture itself opened with the most bizarre 45 minutes witnessed by Lawrie McMenemy, Taylor's assistant. As a violent thunderstorm raged overhead, the floodlights went out before each side was reduced to ten

men through a controversial refereeing decision.

Taylor, though he found himself in a nightmare which lasted for four days (he eventually reached Luton on Sunday, 26 hours after initially leaving his home in Sutton Coldfield), felt that the exercise was worthwhile. Since he plans to extend the B team's programme, it was scarcely in his interests to offer anything other than a positive view.

He admitted, though, that England would have prospered by "playing the old-fashioned way". On a pitch which by the end had been transformed into a muddy pool, there was little to be gained from threading the ball through midfield. "We should have bypassed it," he said, "and found the front two quicker."

Instead of emphasising the need to speed up the approach, he spent his half-time talk rearranging a line-up which had become unbalanced after the dismissal of Neil Webb. Further changes were enforced when he discovered that Gary Pallister and Mel Sterland had sustained slight injuries.

Amid all of the troubles, there were shafts of light. Taylor is convinced that Gary Mabbutt, for example, could be recalled to the senior side should one of the central defenders be unavailable. He described the performances of Ian Wright and Nigel Clough as "plus factors".

Push start for a billion-pound lottery

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE Sports Council yesterday gave its support to the principle of a national lottery, which could raise £300 million a year for British sport.

However, Peter Yarranton, the chairman of the council, said: "It is important that this exercise is fully researched so that we are aware of the potential pitfalls and learn from the experiences of other countries which have established successful lotteries."

Yarranton said he was aware of the fears of the football pools promoters that they might suffer and stressed that the council was seeking

advice that a national lottery would attract new money.

There are three pools companies, Littlewoods, Zetters and Vernons, provide funds from their spot-the-ball competition to the Football Trust, which helps clubs with development projects.

Yarranton added that it was "clearly imperative" that the lottery would be launched using tried and tested methods so that sport as a whole would benefit.

The council is to discuss with the Lottery Promotions Company, whose directors include the Earl of Harewood, Eddie Kaloupekis, the impresario, and Lord Birkett, how best to provide financial

support towards the necessary research.

There is a growing belief in parliament that now Mrs Thatcher, who was opposed to a national lottery on moral grounds, is no longer prime minister, the Government might support a national lottery.

This could raise £1 billion a year within three years and equally benefit the arts, sport and the environment.

There is a concern that unless Britain has its own lottery by the end of 1992, it would be swamped by European lottery mail, because many continental countries have flourishing schemes. This may well force the Gov-

ernment to act over the next two years.

The scheme should receive support from the Treasury because it could eventually result in the profits from the lottery replacing tax-payers' money, which is now used to support the arts and the environment.

Last summer the lottery was the subject of a Private Member's bill, sponsored by Ken Hargreaves, the Tory MP for Hindburn, which was lost when it failed to achieve government support.

Peter Palumbo, the chairman of the Arts Council, has already supported the principle of the lottery, although the council itself has yet to give its approval.

Larger goals may prove a winner with Fifa

COMMENT

RODDY FORSYTH looks at some of the proposals for change being considered in Zurich today by football's governing body

of the ideas are impracticable, even when they sound plausible and originate from those highly placed in the game.

Take, for example, an idea from Bobby Robson, who thought that rather than employ penalty kicks to decide a game, play should continue until one team scores. Fifa has considered Robson's plan but decided against it because every match in the World Cup is broadcast live via satellites which have to be booked for specific durations, an arrangement already strained by the penalty-kick arrangement.

There is also a medical consid-

final between Argentina and Yugoslavia in Florence this summer, most of the players were, in the words of a Fifa official, "very nearly dead on their feet". Which team from northern Europe would wish to contest an indefinitely extended game at, say, high altitude or in extreme heat?

The most likely proposals to be referred to Fifa, which alone can alter the laws of the game, are the expansion of the goals, reduction of the number of players during extra time and a change in the offside law so that no player could be offside if the ball was played to him from his own half.

Larger goals was a favourite theme of Jack Mowat, who was for many years the chairman of the Scottish Football Association referee supervisors' committee, but although it was mentioned at Fifa meetings, it was never formally proposed. Ironically, Mowat was the referee for Real Madrid's 7-3

1960, the highest-scoring European Cup final.

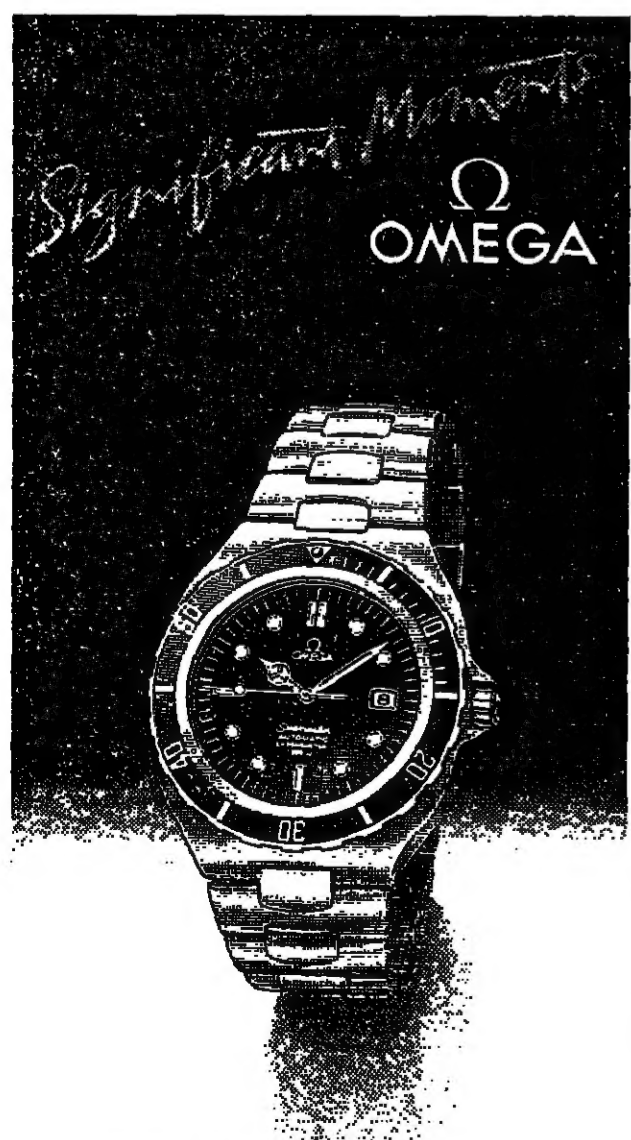
Changing the offside rule also originated in Scotland and David Will, chairman of Brechin City and a Fifa vice-president, believes it may attract support. "This is the one suggestion which I personally find interesting but, quite honestly, you don't know if it's a good idea until you experiment with it," he said. "Various proposals on the offside law have been tried before and have been disastrous."

"My feeling is that in some quarters there is a little bit of panic about because there were so few goals in Italy and because everyone agreed that the standard of football had declined. I would have thought that changes in the format of the World Cup, which would encourage teams to score more goals, would be a much more attractive prospect than changing the structure of the game which, after all, has served us

very well for a very long time."

This, perhaps, is the heart of the matter. The arrangements for the World Cup finals have been so altered to maximise the television audience that only eight teams departed after the first stage in Italy. Since modern finalists are much more alike in fitness and coaching than their predecessors, it was inevitable that the opening sectional games would frequently be an exercise in avoiding defeat rather than winning, notably in group F, where England, the Republic of Ireland and the Netherlands played for safety.

Here, surely, Fifa might borrow from the Football League with profit. If three points were awarded for a win and one for a draw, the cut-off point for qualification would be much less predictable, denying scope for progress with three cynically drawn games, which was an option employed in Italy.



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